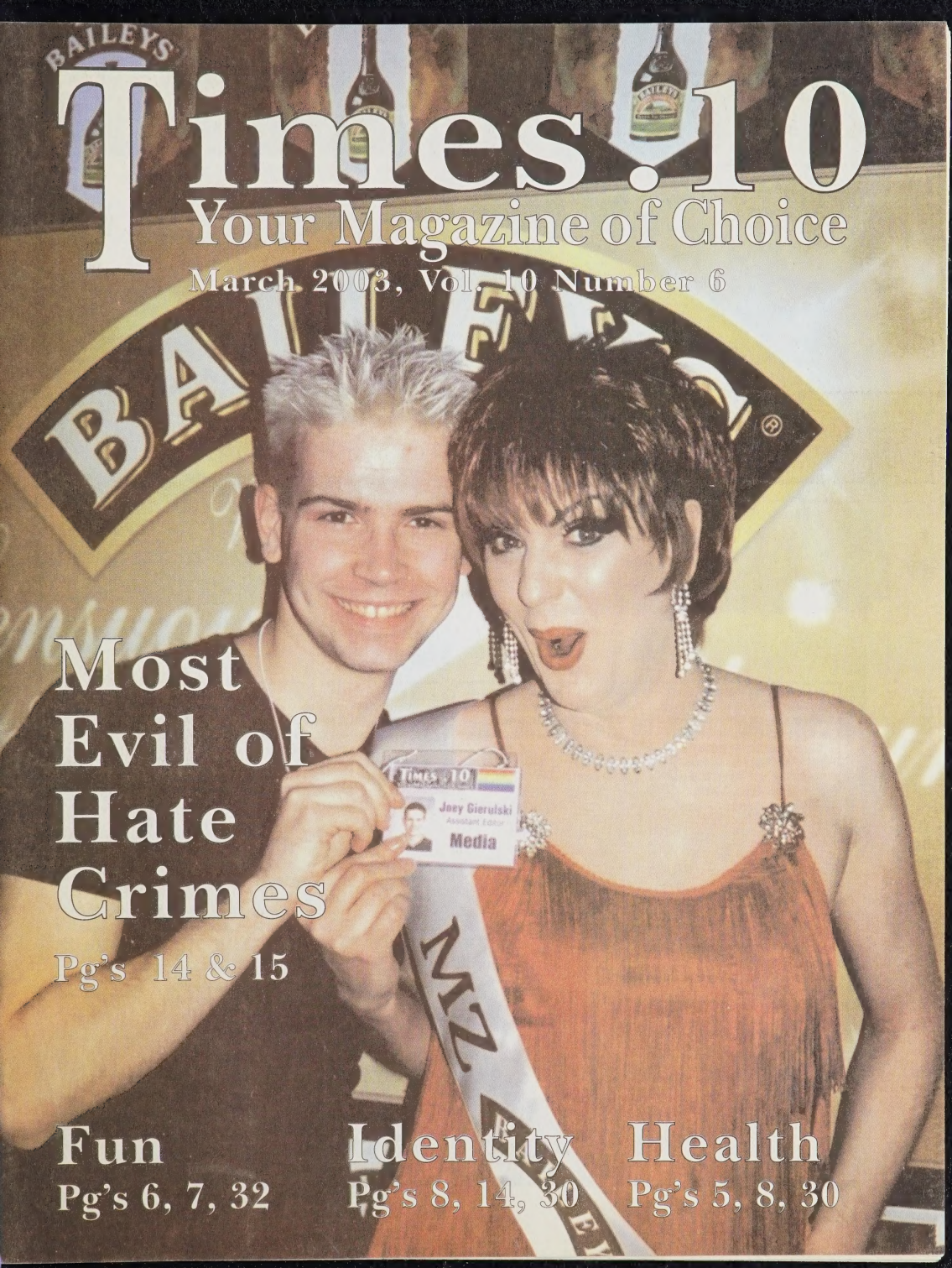
Times 10

Your Magazine of Choice

March 2003, Vol. 10 Number 6



Most Evil of Hate Crimes

Pg's 14 & 15

Fun

Pg's 6, 7, 32

Identity

Pg's 8, 14, 30

Health

Pg's 5, 8, 30

The Weakest Link

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Vol. 10 Number 6
March 2003
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The Front Page
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The Court Reporter

March 2003

His Majesty, Emperor 27 Bobby just returned from Seattle's Coronation, where he represented Edmonton as on of the 44 cities who sent people to that ball. That simply serves to demonstrate how widespread and still vital an organization this court system is. Even though there may be slow times or rough patches, the fundraising that courts do, in Edmonton or any of the 70-plus cities that have courts, is an important part of the gay community.

In just a couple weeks, a large group from Edmonton will be going to Vancouver's Ball, where Empress 16 of Edmonton, Mandy Kamp, will be stepping down as Empress 31 of Vancouver. Edmonton monarchs have gone on to reign in many other cities, a sign of the incredible talent and dedication flowing from our city, across the country. Still, there are many such signs of that dedication still remaining in Edmonton.

A classic example of that is Mr. Vera, 3 times Emperor, Empress once, and now Ball Coordinator for Bobby and Endora. She has been active in

Edmonton's court for 27 years, and having had 4 balls of her own, we all feel confident that August 23, this year's step-down date, will be a fun party enjoyed by all. We've moved the ball from the Hellenic Hall to the Masonic Hall, and we're hoping that the change of venue will only help the party, especially with the festive theme of "The 60s and 70s As Seen on TV". Ball preparations are rapidly progressing, so expect to see the Upper House out promoting Coronation from now until August.

March also sees our Entertainer of the Year pageant, happening at the end of the month. There will be pre-shows at clubs throughout the city, introducing the nominees and dazzling you with some of the court's best performers. I'm sure by now you've all seen the nomination boxes out at the 4 clubs, and I'm sure you've thought long and hard about which Queen in the city has most amazed you with their performances in the past year. Be sure to check out that pageant, March 22 at Boots, so you can vote for your favorite.

And court is about more than drag shows. Based on the success of the first one this year, Empress 19 Gretchen Wilder is making another quilt to raffle off, as well as selling flower bulbs again. Between the quilt raffles and flower bulbs, Gretchen has been one of the biggest solo contributors to the John M. Kerr Memorial Scholarship fund in the past few years. It is that kind of dedication that makes Edmonton's court the success that it is. Their Majesties Bobby and Endora, as well as the rest of the Upper House and Board, cannot thank Gretchen enough for all her hard work.

ISCWR
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See you in April as the build-up to Pride and Coronation has us ever more out and excited.

Stop AIDS Project

Fully Vindicated By Federal Inquiry

Politics, not science, cited as the motivation for redundant requests

The STOP AIDS Project today announced that a Health and Human Services (HHS) inquiry launched more than a year ago yielded no significant findings. Despite hundreds of staff hours and tens of thousands of taxpayers' dollars spent on the redundant, unnecessary report, HHS inspectors found the Project to be in compliance with all federal laws and local guidelines.

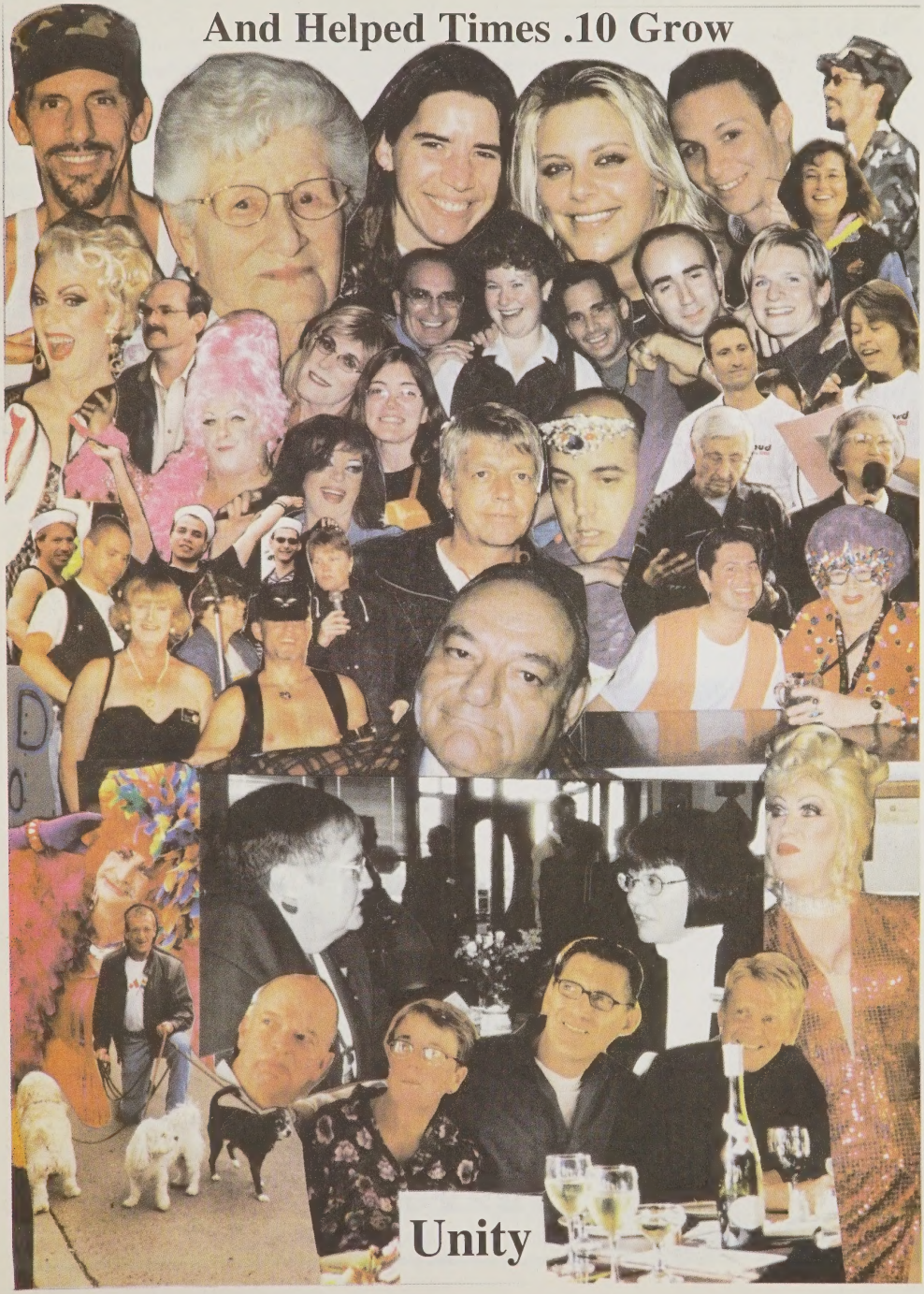
"It is clear that the constant scrutiny we've been under was not about public health or even fair oversight," said Executive Director Darlene Weide. "It was about politics. There is nothing obscene in the work we do or in talking about the reality of gay men's lives. What is obscene is that sound prevention techniques that we know work in the real world are constantly on trial."

"For two decades, we have worked in partnership with other groups and individuals to ensure that gay and bisexual men have the information and support they need to care for themselves and each other-the very definition of community," Weide continued. "This belief that all people have the right to safer and more fulfilling sex lives has made us a high-profile target for conservative politicians promoting an anti-gay, abstinence-only agenda." The investigators spent more than a year trying to determine whether the STOP AIDS Project's workshops and promotional materials had been reviewed by a local panel in accordance with federal regulations, and to determine whether specific workshops held by the agency-those considered more provocative-could be attributed to federal or non-federal funds. Inspectors found that STOP AIDS Project workshops and promotional materials were being approved in accordance with local community standards of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Materials Review Committee (MRC), and that a minor requested change to staff time-keeping records had already been implemented.

"After a year spent responding to these politically-biased inquiries, it is a relief that the highly qualified staff at the STOP AIDS Project can go back to doing their real jobs-working to help prevent the transmission of HIV among all gay and bisexual men in San Francisco," said Jorge Romero-Lozano, President of the Board of Directors. The STOP AIDS Project thanked the community for its support during these investigations. The complete text can be found at http://www.stopaids.org.

People Who Started it All
Total

And Helped Times .10 Grow



Stand Your Ground

I realize that some people might not understand why it is so important for Canada to make our voice heard at the United Nations. Not only should our voice be heard but it should be with certainty and resolve that we assist in leading the way to peaceful resolution to the mid-east crisis, again. This will not be the first time that our country, with only 32 million people, found a way out of a situation that could have escalated into a worldwide war. Lester P. Pearson became our Prime Minister just over a decade after finding a peaceful resolution to the Suez Canal crisis. We, as Canadians, can be very proud of the fact that, wherever we travel, we do not have to disguise ourselves, as most travelling citizens of fortress U.S.A. must do.

We can be thankful to the part our country was willing to do in two World Wars in the last century. As a people, we were willing to unconditionally put our lives on the line for freedom and peace. Throughout Europe, there are monuments to the great task and the great cost for that freedom displayed towards our country. Yes, the United States did get involved in both of those wars as well. Let us be very clear, though, that they did nothing in either until they were attacked. It was late in 1917 that the troops from the U. S. arrived on the European shores and not until mid 1942 in the Second World War. It is a well-known fact that Time Magazine displayed a picture of Adolf Hitler as Man of the Year in 1939. To Canadians and our Allies, that was quite the picture since we had been at war with him since September of 1939. Meanwhile, from the United States, supplies flowed to Hitler from IBM, Dunlop and

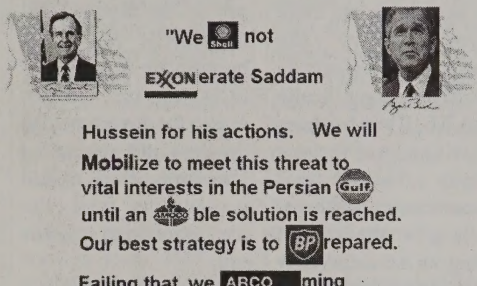
numerous other U.S. corporations making millions of dollars while countries and millions of lives were being lost because of Hitler's forces. The Holocaust was already raging while some U.S. owned corporations and the government ignored it.

Yes, the event that took place on September 11, 2001 was a horrific act against our friends south of our border. I heard the news early that morning on a local radio station with the words "America is under attack..." I flipped on the television just as the second airplane was hitting and watched in horror as the towers fell. All I could feel at the time was that we would help our neighbours get the bastards that did this to "us". I have many friends in the United States and I did appreciate the historical lessons taught from history.

Did we not learn anything from the Century from Hell with two world wars? Yes, the people governing Afghanistan and protecting these people had to be removed from office. As a nation, we did our part to get the job done along with many other nations. We cannot abandon the new government and people of Afghanistan as has been done so many times in the past.

Here is how it works and, as Canadians, we should understand this more than most people in the free world. When it comes time for an election, we go to the polling stations and cast our vote. The votes are tallied up and the one with the most number of votes wins that particular seat in the House of Commons or a Provincial Legislatures.

When a leader of a nation is simply appointed, or forces himself into office, without proper voting rights, then we call that person a dictator. They get their strength from terrorizing the population with disinformation and threats. This is what we now have happening in the United States of America. Baby Bush is a leader that was appointed by a Court and is now threatening countries and terrorizing his own people. Therefore, his appointed officials are also a part of what we commonly call a "coupe". The people of the United States are now being told to use duct tape and plastic to cover their windows. Anyone doing such a thing will suffocate in a matter of hours and it will not prevent germ or gas weapons from killing. The latest and greatest is to take shelter behind your desk or sturdy table in the event of a nuclear attack. Should you not believe this, then get onto the Internet and go to ready.gov and have the laugh of your life.



Now, as an educated people in Canada, let us look at the current situation with "eyes-wide-open". There is NO proof that the dictator in Iraq has any links to the people who attacked our friends! The speeches from the U.S. dictator shown minute by minute on their television networks, now with the backdrop of the two towers falling, is pure terror. The very thought of someone using a nuclear weapon is repulsive to most people around the world. How dare baby Bush threaten any of us by stating that he would use these weapons against any nation! The only way to stop this action is by having Canada continue to take a lead role at the United Nations. People respect us and will listen to our voice of reason, which makes us the nation that can make a difference.

Let us lead the way by finding and digging out the people who attacked our freedom in the first place. Should we want the oil in Iraq, then let us stop starving the people with sanctions. A dictator will always put him-, or herself, in a good position along with any associates, the same as baby Bush has done for himself.

Millions upon millions of people are now protesting any war, so it is time now for us to show the way. No door or desk will help anyone should a nuclear device explode; just ask the people of Japan. Those were small test weapons compared to the ones that are possessed today.

To the memory of all the tens of millions of people that lost their lives in the last century, we must demand that our government stand firm and speak wisely. Have a little faith and the world will listen to us.

Spewing A Lot Of Rhetoric

By Laurie Blakeman MLA

By the time you read this, I'll be back in the legislature participating in one of the last vestiges of democracy in this province. Yes, the legislative session has resumed and Alberta has the dubious distinction of having the shortest legislative sessions in the whole of Canada. And despite the fact that there are many pressing issues on Albertans' mind - such as health care and education — the Klein government does not seem that interested in talking about them. In short, the Conservatives want to avoid talking about the elephant in the room or they don't want us to talk altogether.

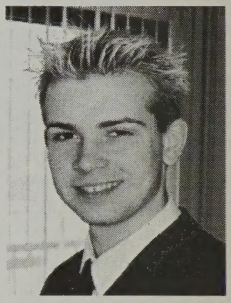
The fact that our school boards are facing a deficit situation because of a labour settlement that was foisted on them, is not on the agenda. Even more surprising is the conspicuous absence of a discussion about health care. Mr. Klein has been spewing a lot of rhetoric about the federal commitment to health care dollars, yet the issue of firing our democratically elected regional health authorities will not be discussed. Health care funding will not be a topic of conversation. Levels of care in our nursing homes will be ignored. My bill - regarding standards of care - will never make it to the order paper. Now why is that?

You would think that a government who purports to be interested in what Albertans think would like to see legislative codes of practices put in place for long-term care facilities. You would think that our buddy Ralph would want to ensure that there are minimum staffing to resident ratios and minimum staff training requirement. Why wouldn't the government want to have a residents' complaint process in place, some standards on accommodation and nutrition and food, safety and security? Maybe it's because the Klein government isn't interested in our young people, the disabled and our elderly. Maybe it's because we're supposed to take care of it - and not expect the government to do their job setting up standards that would protect the frail, the disadvantaged and the old.

Well, if you want to know what I'm going to be doing this spring - I'm going to be asking those questions. I'm going to enter a government motion that calls for a standard of care for our youth, seniors and disabled persons who rely on government for their day-to-day living needs. I'm going to be waking that damn elephant.

If you have a particular issue and would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live.

You can reach me at my new email address blakeman@lauriblakeman.com or call (780) 414-0743 or drop by #3, 9908-109 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 1H5



Shut Up, And Play Nice

By Joey Gierulski Assistant-Editor

I am sure we have all seen the little wars that go on in our community, and I am sure we've all created out own little wars too. But let's take a look at the bigger picture here. Are we in this together? Or is it every man for himself? If we take a look into history, we see that no one has succeeded by doing it alone. But, for some reason, our

community seems to think that if they work alone, and break their close allies, they will succeed.

I am sure we have all played the telephone game before. Remember that one? It's the game where someone whispers something into one person's ear, and then that person passes it on to the next person, but adds a little twist to it before he or she passes it on. Well, by the time it gets back to the person that had started it, the phrase had been almost completely altered. And with each person that is added into the chain, the original message gets altered even more. But no one really knows who altered it along the way. That's the fun part, knowing that you can put a twist on things without people knowing it was you that started it. Well, that seems to be how our community works. How do we stop that? Maybe we could just stop talking? No, because fortunately, talking to people that are directly involved is how we can get situations solved. It's just that one person who gets involved and screws up the whole process of communication and takes the whole thing down hill. Not to mention the others that put in their own two bits to keep things interesting for themselves.

At some point along the way, in every form of relationship, the lines of communication are cut, and that is when the game starts. That is when a third party gets involved and puts in their own suggestions and comments; then the whole scenario goes downhill from there.

Everyone likes to add his or her own twist on things. This may be because they want to add information that no one else knows, whether or not it's true. After all, gossip can be more interesting with your own spin on things. Otherwise, it just wouldn't be worth talking about because everyone has already heard the story. So, we add our own version to keep it interesting.

In the end, people will find something else to gossip about and add their own versions too, and will have left the old gossip alone. After all, they have new things to chat about. This is when the two people that were originally involved in the argument to start with, get the chance to talk without the others getting involved (those people are too busy working on new material for something else). If we don't give the chance for others to get involved, we can solve more situations sooner.

Is this something that ends with age? Being a young man, still quite new to the gay community, I can't really answer that, but from what I see so far, No, it doesn't end with age for some people, it just gets more and more complicated. Who knows, maybe it's just a phase for our community.

I have heard many stories from many people about the party days. Back in the 80's, during the "Flashback" era, the community seemed to be closer together. Everyone seemed to work together and play nice. I am sure there was still gossip back then. But it doesn't seem as hurtful as what is going on in our community today.

So, let me leave you with some words to those of you that are in a "Spat", or even just for future reference. Talk to the person about it, and try and get things solved before someone else gets involved, because they will screw the whole thing up. Because it will happen. It always does.

I have seen friendships that go way back end because somewhere along the way, someone else got involved and fed the fire of lies just so they become involved in the situation. After all, no one likes being left out. My point of saying all of this is because I want to get a point across to people. Just because of a misunderstanding that happened between two people some time ago doesn't mean that everyone should follow suit and keep the little war going on, continuously throwing sticks into a spinning wheel. It just isn't right.

erba

Place: Red Robin's Lounge
104 Avenue and 112 Street

Tuesday, March 11

6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

We provide networking opportunities for gay and lesbian business owners and operators along with gay and lesbian friendly businesses since 1998.

A Women's View

Understand Yourself First

By Marla Taylor
Ms. Edmonton Leather 2002

Before I begin with this month's opinion, I must beg for your forgiveness. As you may have noticed, there was no article from me last month as I missed the deadline. I have no excuse; time just slipped away. I do apologize both to my readers as well to this fine publication.

The last article I wrote dealt with a submissive's responsibly. I explained how a submissive must be of strong character in order for the relationship between Top and Bottom to work. At least that's what I tried to explain. Since the publication of that article I have received a few comments from Tops on how incorrect I was. I wish to clarify a few things and explain further my view, for I feel I am not incorrect, just realistic and misunderstood. First of all, the relationship I'm talking about is one that is understood between the two people to become something more permanent. I'm not talking about a negotiated scene between a single bottom and Top at a play party. That's a different topic for a different time. That important topic should and will be talked about in upcoming issues. In the last article I wrote, I stated that a submissive must not be a mild mannered imbecile. Well that's the truth. She or he must be mentally very strong and secure to involve oneself in the S/M lifestyle. I have witnessed many times, both submissive women and men, get involved in the S/M scene when they really should just run in the opposite direction. And I mean run as fast as possible. When one is feeling blue or depressed, the last thing one should do is put themselves in a position where they can be taken advantage of. It is imperative that a bottom, submissive or slave be of sound mind. You must first feel good about yourself. You must be fully aware and thinking straight and not be suffering of low self-esteem. A very good friend and woman, with many years experience in social work whom I respect a lot, inadvertently reminded me one day that there are a lot of people out there who suffer from low self-esteem. There are also just as many so-called Tops out there who are more than ready to take advantage of these people. So please, please, please understand your own mental state before you decide to enter the world of S/M. Once you have accomplished this and you feel good about yourself first, then your experience can be both rewarding and pleasurable beyond your wildest dreams.

I also said that it is the bottom's responsibility to inform their Top when they are being unreasonable. I mean generally unreasonable, not during play. If you find yourself with an unreasonable Top during play you have totally misunderstood what I'm trying to say. Remember you are the one that has consented to this relationship. It is up to you, as a bottom to determine whether you can trust the Top before entering any kind of relationship. Don't go running to anyone if you have been stupid. Remember: understand yourself first.

Changing tracks a little, back on Nov. 2nd I hosted a fundraiser called Leather & Spice held at Secrets Bar and Grill. In my opinion, it was a complete success with well over one hundred people in attendance and over four hundred dollars raised. I wish to thank all who attended. This fundraiser was also a test run for me to determine the venue for Ms. Edmonton Leather 2003. I am pleased to announce that the 2003 contest is going to be held on April 5th at The Queen Mary Community Hall. This is strictly due to the numbers expected and to offer the best viewing for all who will be in attendance. The Meet and Greet, Victory brunch and, of course, any partying after the contest will be held at Secrets. Liz, the owner of Secrets, has been more than understanding and supportive of the Leather Community and will have my continued support and friendship. It is also at this time I call for Leather women or women interested in Leather to compete for the 2003 contest. Contact me at www.msedmontonleather.com for more information or just say hello and ask your questions. Believe it or not, I am approachable. Take care everyone; have fun and see you soon.

TIMES .10
YOUR MAGAZINE of CHOICE

Join Millions of other people from our World Wide Community at www.times10.org

Our Stories, Photos Politics, Groups and Features

Pride Week Volunteer Call

Pride Week is for everyone, and now, more than ever is, your chance to get involved. With Pride Week 2003 just a few months away, we on the Pride Committee are again putting out an urgent call for more volunteers. Many of our major sub-committees still need help planning the events for the week: the dance, the parade, the street fair and even just general organization and promotion of the festival. Our theme this year, The Flame Within, provides you with the perfect opportunity to let that flame burn brightly and for all to see, helping Pride 2003 be the best it can be.

We are still hoping to have the Pride Dance at the Citadel, as it has been in years past. We're currently in talks with the Citadel trying to secure the space and will let everyone know as soon as the location if confirmed. In the meantime, there is still a lot that can be done to help with the dance. We're planning on doing a profit-sharing scheme with community groups in exchange for volunteers (bartenders, rovers, security, set-up, clean-up, etc) and feel that this is the right thing to do. As much as the dance is a fundraiser for the committee itself, it is also an ideal vehicle for non-profit groups to make some easy money for their organization. We encourage interested groups to come to our general meetings and get involved with the project, even at this early stage.

Likewise, the parade also needs help. While we have the date set for Sunday June 15, the route has not yet been finalized, though we hope to have it run closely to last year's route, ending once more at Oliver Park. Volunteers are needed to help with the planning of that route, as well as going out and encouraging businesses and community groups to send out large contingents for the parade, whether on a float or in a walking group.

Following the parade will be the Business Fair, beer gardens, and park festival. ERBA has undertaken organization for the Business Fair, and they have so much interest from their members already that we're sure that will be a great success for all involved. Likewise, Kitten Kaboodle of Betty Ford fame has volunteers to coordinate the post-parade party, and her ideas have been exciting and definitely guaranteeing a great afternoon. She still needs help with all the usual organizational "stuff", so please think about coming out to help with that Sunday's event.

Again, if you're interested in any of the above activities, or anything else regarding Pride Week, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Marla a t pridevolunteers@gayedmonton.com or come to any meeting of the Pride Committee posted in here and on posters throughout the city. Also, be sure to check out our revamped and continually expanding website at http://www.prideedmonton.org

Edmonton Pride Week June 13 -22

Parade Sunday

June 13, 2003

Quad 4ppl/2beds	Triple 3ppl/2beds
$229*	$239*
Double 2ppl/2beds	**Twin 2ppl/2beds**
$249*	$259*

Room types are limited so book early!
*per person + GST; non-skiers deduct $60

Fri Mar 21: Bus departs 6 pm from **Edmonton**
Sat Mar 22: Ski **Lake Louise**
Sun Mar 23: Ski **Sunshine**; return to Edmonton

Trip includes:
- Deluxe round-trip video-equipped motor coach transportation
- 2 days lift tickets (skiers only*)
- 2 nights accommodation @ Swiss Village, Banff
- Accommodation tax
- Professional Tour Guide
- Good times with great gay-friendly people!

To book:
- **Call David** @ (780) 982-1908 or (780) 450-3722 after 4:00 weekdays or anytime weekends
- **$50 non-refundable deposit** required to secure seat
- **Balance due Feb 15**

The Most Evil Hate Crime

By Mike Schiller

When people talk of hate crimes, they are usually referring to crimes against a race, a religion, a gender, or a sexual orientation. Interestingly enough, the one minority group which is subjected to the most hate crimes- both individual physical hate crimes, and institutional hate crimes- is the one minority group yet to receive recognition for their strife.

They are the least powerful voice in politics. They have less civil rights than any racial group, gender group, religious group, or sexual orientation group. They have a more difficult time finding jobs which pay above minimum wage than any group, they are discriminated against in housing more than any group, they're exploited more than any group, they're persecuted more than any group, and they are ignored more than any group.

When they are physically attacked, their complaints are rarely even considered crimes- the attackers are usually subjected to minimal, non-legally-binding penalties. Rarely are their complaints taken seriously by the courts, and more often than not they are told they do not have the right to prosecute anyone who infringes upon their rights unless they can get written authorization to do so from a third party which hinges upon that third party's willingness to help. The wealthiest people in this minority group still have trouble obtaining legal counsel because their access to that counsel depends on permission whether they can get permission. They're the only group in America which is still treated by law as if they are property of their "owners", and they have endured disenfranchisement longer than any other group. All of the members of this group experience the above infringements of their rights regardless of their socio economic status.

I am, of course, talking about the group known as kids. All members of this group experience the above listed forms of discrimination. The poorest frequently must fend for themselves, yet they cannot apply for individual aid. The richest cannot get money unless they allow their parents to step on their faces and treat them like slaves. No child in this country is privileged except in the eyes of everyone else.

Their peers physically attack wealthy and poor children alike, and when they complain, their complaints are dismissed because "kids fight". Nobody cares that one of the two kids probably did not want to fight. When a kid gets attacked and tries to seek grievance, usually both kids are punished instead of only the guilty one. When only one is punished, the attacker is at worst sent to their room for a week, and even that hinges upon their own parent's perception of their child's behaviour. Some parents encourage their kids to victimize others, and those parents do nothing- and the victims have nowhere to turn for help.

The worst part about this systematic discrimination is the fact that every adult was once a kid, so most adults views these atrocities as the status quo. "If it was done to me, let it be done to another" seems to be the American motto, and this sickening philosophy is practiced throughout every sector of society. The left and right adults of the political spectrum are equally guilty. The rich and the poor adults are equally guilty. The adults of every racial, religious, gender and sexual orientation group are equally guilty. The children of the poor and wealthy alike regularly wind up getting thrown out of their houses, coerced into drug addiction, inducted into cults, abducted from their parents, and harassed by the police. They are frequently abused by teachers, camp counsellors, shopkeepers, janitors, parents, or anyone in a position of authority over them.

Child abuse laws would never have existed had it not been for the victims eventually running for office themselves. But they were unable to do so until years later in life and it took hundreds of years for any of them to realize they had the right to. Children were systematically abused by Priests for centuries, and even today as that abuse is finally brought to light, we see that the victims were unable to tell their stories or seek retribution until they had grown older and become adults. The main reason nobody takes action for so long is because most children, upon becoming adults, usually decide it is no longer in their interest to care about the human rights of the young.

When an adult wants war, they do not suggest sending adults to war; they send the kids who are in the military to die a gruesome death, regardless of what the kids in the military want.

When an adult opposes war, they do not respond by suggesting the pro-war adults be held accountable, they respond by offering to send the kids who aren't in the military to die alongside those who are, regardless of what the kids want.

I have not heard anyone on either side of the debate suggest that the adult world shoulder exclusive responsibility for a war, with or without a draft. Why would they? Those on the left and right who have the privilege of making these decisions are adults themselves and would not dare to put the burdens of their own decisions upon themselves. Making the children suffer is much easier. That way, no matter which side of the debate emerges victorious, none of those who made the choices suffer any consequences.

The single worst hate crime in the world is the adult world's ongoing insistence that the blood of the youth of America should be spilled when the adult world commands that such be done. The systematic trend on both sides of the political aisle toward placing all burdens of war and violence on the backs of the young who have no voice in such decisions is a hate crime stemming from an adult world which holds youth in sheer contempt, both for reasons of jealousy and for reasons of prejudice.

Until the oldest Americans are called upon first and the youth called upon last, adults should not have the authority to make decisions about war, on any side- in favour of, or against it.

If Charles Rangel doesn't think a draft bill would pass, why would he introduce it? If he truly cared about the youth, and wanted to make a point with a bill that wouldn't pass, why didn't he instead suggest a constitutional Amendment that says "All children under 30 shall be permitted a popular vote to veto or approve any declaration of war? If the youth vote should produce a veto, and congress decides to override the veto for national security reasons, no child under age 30 shall participate in the war in any manner, unless there no longer remain any living American citizens over age 30."

He wont' suggest such a bill because he, like most of his fellow adults, is more interested in self preservation than justice.

Until he suggests an Amendment like that, he should not be allowed to claim he speaks for the youth, whether he is in favour of war or against it. He does not speak for any of America's youth. He does not speak for the poor or the rich; he does not speak for any racial group, gender group, religious group, or sexual orientation group. Charles Rangel may invoke the names of those groups to shield himself from criticism, but that tactic was exposed for what it was earlier this year when Former Cardinal Bernard Law attempted to use his religion as a shield for his crimes against children.

There are some wonderful adults in this world who truly do care about the young, but there are fewer adults who care than there are adults who pretend to care. The few adults in this world who truly do care about the young should speak up about this truth that has persisted since the first humans walked this Earth:

Those who ask the young to suffer the consequences of decisions made by adults - decisions the young have no power over- truly do hate America's youth. They come from every socio economic group, political group, racial group, gender group, religious group, and sexual orientation group; and they are guilty as charged for perpetuating the world's most evil hate crime.

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International Mr. Leather

Celebrates 25th Anniversary May 22 - 26, 2003 In Chicago

The world's hottest leathermen will come together to compete for the title of **International Mr. Leather 2003**, as IML celebrates its 25th Anniversary, Thursday, May 22 through Monday, May 26, 2003 (Memorial Day Weekend) in Chicago. The Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe Street in Chicago, is the official host hotel for IML 2003. Weekend event packages and hotel packages for International Mr. Leather 2003 are currently on sale.

About 400 gay leathermen gathered in Chicago in 1979 for the first International Mr. Leather contest. Today, the event has grown to be an annual tradition for thousands in the leather community. International Mr. Leather 2003 will include: the *25th Annual International Mr. Leather Competition*, the *11th Annual International Mr. Bootblack Competition*, the *Leather Market* featuring the world's best collection of leather/fetish vendors, plus numerous celebrations including *Salute* (post-contest celebration) at the Palmer House Hilton, the annual *IML Victory Celebration Party* at Chicago's House of Blues and the annual *Black and Blue Ball* (*location to be announced*).

The International Mr. Leather 2003 Contest will be held Sunday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. at The Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago. Pre-contest events include: IML Opening Ceremonies (Thursday, May 22 at 9 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton, Grand Ballroom) and Physique Competition "Pecs and Personality" (Saturday, May 24 at 9 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton, Grand Ballroom).

The winner of the IML 2003 Contest will receive a prize package consisting of donations from businesses and organizations supporting the leather community. The winner will also receive a black Harley Davidson 100th Anniversary XLH Sportster 883 motorcycle, courtesy of International Mr. Leather. Complete contestant information, including contestant applications, can be found at www.imrl.com.

Stephen Weber (Mr. Texas Leather 2002) was awarded International Mr. Leather 2002. Borisz Mos (Mr. Leather Holland 2002) was the First Runner-up. Herb Kaylor (Mr. D.C. Eagle 2002) was the Second Runner-up.

The 11th Annual International Mr. Bootblack Competition will be held Friday, May 23 through Sunday, May 25 in the Leather Market at The Palmer House Hilton. The winner will be selected by the vote of IML Weekend Package-holders. Each paid weekend package includes a ballot for the competition which can be cast for the bootblack of the holder's choice. The winner will be announced at the International Mr. Leather Contest on Sunday, May 25. Michael Lanzini (Eagle, New York City) was awarded International Mr. Bootblack 2002.

The Leather Market, located at The Palmer House Hilton, will feature the world's biggest collection of leather/fetish vendors. More than 15,000 people visited the Market in 2002. The Leather Market will be open to the public during the following hours: Friday, May 23 from 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 24 from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sunday, May 25 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Monday, May 26 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission to the Leather Market is included with all Weekend Packages. For all other visitors, a suggested donation of $2.00 will benefit The Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago. A complete list of vendors, as well as vendor applications can be found at www.imrl.com.

IML Weekend Event Packages cost $140 and include: admission to the International Mr. Leather competition, admission to all other official IML events (Opening Ceremonies, Physique Competition, *Salute*, *IML Victory Celebration Party* and the *Black and Blue Ball*), free admission to the Leather Market, free shuttle bus service, an official IML 2003 t-shirt and poster plus special yearly giveaways.) IML Weekend Packages can be purchased online at www.boxofficetickets.com; by calling (800) 494-TIXS (Intl. (503) 245-0288); or via facsimile at (800) FAX-TIXS (Intl. (503) 245-0290). Weekend Packages should be picked up at the Palmer House Hilton beginning Thursday, May 22 in the afternoon through Sunday, May 25.

Tickets to individual IML 2003 events are available at www.boxofficetickets.com and will be sold at The Palmer House Hilton throughout IML Weekend. Single tickets to the *IML Victory Celebration Party* are only available through the House of Blues, (312) 923-2000.

The Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St. in Chicago, is the host hotel for International Mr. Leather 2003. Reservations can be made by calling (312) 726-7500 or (800) HILTONS or online at www.imrl.com/iml2003/hotels.asp. International Mr. Leather 2003 is sponsored by Miller Lite, Bacardi and Wet. American Airlines is the Official Airline of IML. For fare discounts, travelers should contact American Airlines at (800) 433-1790 and identify themselves as IML attendees with Star File #A1953AB.

For more information on International Mr. Leather 2003, log on to the official IML website, www.imrl.com.

Dear Dr. Dyke,

My girlfriend has a six year-old son. Her mother says that our weekend sleepovers are harming him. Naturally, everything we do is behind closed doors...except for a little hand holding or hugging. What do you think?
Signed, Panago

Dear P,

Hmm...Dr. Dyke is going to assume your gf's mother is not involved in any possible way with the sleepovers. (But, to cover all the bases, just in case-have you noticed any uncomfortable flirtation between you and your mother-in-law? Maybe during those banjo lessons??) A loving, respectful, legal relationship is an excellent example to junior whether it's between husband and wife or dyke and dyker. But no kid wants to imagine their parents making whoopie, so as long as the crazy sex romps in the next room are inaudible, there's no problem. Be honest with the kid, so no crap like, "This is my roommate, Rancine." But, when it comes to explaining the sling hanging down from the middle of your bedroom, just say it's a hammock for the dog, and hey, it's time to go buy him another video game!

Dear Dr. Dyke,

Why are wimmin in the community so quick to judge someone they don't really know, and how long does it take them to get over things, or forgive you for having bad judgment? Everyone screws up at least once in their life, I just happened to do it on a large scale.
Signed, Pizza Hut

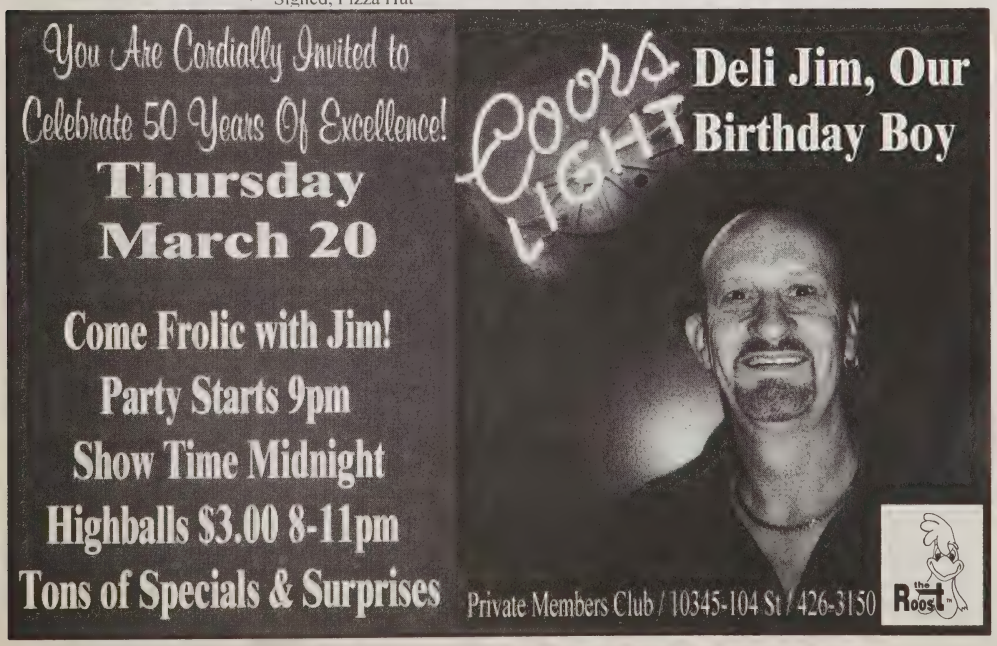
Dear PH,

Well, in terms of how long before people forgive you, it really depends if they are vegan or not. (Whooo, just kidding! Bad Dr. Dyke! For the record, Dr. Dyke was vegan for two years, and many close chums remain veggie.) Yes, it's true; everyone does a major screw up at least once in their life, or in Dr. Dyke's case, once a week. Some people have not learned the release of forgiveness, and prefer to take hard feelings to a vengeful, Olympic level. They suck, and screw them! Forgive yourself, learn, and your true friends who have ditched you will come around. Use your new found free time to do your laundry, organize your banking, and make better friends!

Dear Dr. Dyke,
Why the hell are lesbians so freakin' gossipy?!
Signed, Chicago Deep Dish

Dear CDD,

Gay gossip actually fuels small third world countries, and since it's also human nature, it's win-win! You control how much gossip you hear or get involved with, so either move to a city where the moral majority has finally implemented that No Gossip By-Law in public places, or move to a new city where no one knows you, and you can be sure they aren't gossiping about the fresh meat. Dr. Dyke recommends extra Vitamin E to help toughen up your skin. There's no Gossip Patch Now With Wings that can help you. You might also choose not to sleep with all of your friend's girlfriends, or at least cut back to half!



Recognized Community Builders

Alcoholics Anonymous
AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton
A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month. Write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

Dignity Edmonton
This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Edmonton Prime Timers
We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA)
Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership $25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority
Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca, on the web at: http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

Gay & Lesbian Centre
Providing Resources, Referrals and Support to all members of the general public regarding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. Suite 45, 9912 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, (780) 488-3234. WebPages with more information at http://edmc.net/glcce/

HIV Edmonton
HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at mail@hivedmonton.com. Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton http://www.hivedmonton.com/

Illusions Social Club
A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club. Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose
The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: wildrosecourt@yahoo.com. Visit our Website is at: Wild Rose Court http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/

ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education
Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service

providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at icare@oanet.com

Lambda Christian Community Church
We are a non-denominational Christian church providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends. 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at lambdachurch@shaw.ca

Living Positive
Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: livepos@telusplanet.net.

Lutherans Concerned Edmonton
We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: lylemillang@powersurfr.com

Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)
Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm. 2. E-mail: makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com 3. Phone: Warren 780-920-2847. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

Northern Chaps
Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: Northernchaps@telusplanet.net

OUTreach
OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Second Cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail: outreach@ualberta.ca. They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach

Youth Understanding Youth
We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: yuyedm@hotmail.com. Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton
We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

Womonspace
We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Womonspace http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/

Regional Organizations

Grande Prairie
Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: gpgayorg@hotmail.com

Out North
Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm E-mail:out_north99@hotmail.com

New Group
I am looking at starting a group for Gay Writers. The goal is to meet once a month to help each other gain new story ideas, give advice on stories already finished, etc. All interested people should phone Kyle @ 479-8594. Leave a message if no one answers.

Accepting Gay Children

Bitterness, Resentment Common, But Patience Can Bring Change.

I recently wrote a short piece that was eventually published in some half-dozen newspapers and magazines. It told my story of being beaten in a cab for answering a simple - and honest — "yes" when a front-seat passenger asked if I was gay. The response to that article was far greater and far deeper than I could have ever imagined. Some 300 letters and e-mails came from various places and people. Most interesting about those who responded is that most are heterosexual.

A Baptist Sunday school teacher, a medical-doctor mom with two teen-age sons, even a death-row inmate wrote to say "thank you." An 84-year-old grandmother said she read my article with "tears in my eyes and sorrow in my heart" and came away ready to unconditionally accept her lesbian granddaughter. For my parents, though, this column brought mixed emotions: pride in their son's bravery to share his story, but also added confusion as to why he is gay. Choice? Lifestyle? Where did we go wrong? Heaven or Hell? As a family, we discuss these issues almost weekly and seldom come away with any satisfying conclusions. I often tell young gays — especially those in their post/pre coming out - to give parents time, and lots of it. I spent 23 years asking myself the same questions my parents now ask themselves.

I had to conquer the same emotions of anger, bitter resentment, denial and confusion they now face and are trying to overcome. I did not arrive at my peace-of-mind overnight; neither do most gays and neither will most parents. "Mom/Dad, I'm gay," registers for parents the same way it does for their gay son or daughter when he or she first realizes what those pre-adolescent "warm fuzzies" really mean. And it often marks the beginning of a long, long period of confusion. The words, "I'm gay," force parents to take the first step of a long, uninvited journey. Most eventually arrive carrying with them unconditional love and acceptance. But — again — it takes time. With the steady rise in the number of AIDS cases, the rampant drug use among younger gays and the brutal beatings and murder of gays, parents have a right to be concerned. Throw in the rhetoric of moral majority politicians and religious activists like Pat Robertson who preach "the rise of homosexuality is a sign that a society is in the last stages of decay," and the heat rises more than a few degrees.

For the parent, it's not easy. At first my parents embraced the old cliché: "Hate the sin. Love the sinner." They viewed homosexuality in terms of an abominable sexual act carried out by two of the same gender. When the combination of the two words "Miles" and "gay" entered their thoughts, the only image was their beloved son being sexually active with another male. Now, they're exploring other possibilities. The possibility that homosexuality just might mean the same as heterosexuality. Not just physical attraction, but emotional, spiritual and mental attraction: a bond of love between two people. I'm an existentialist type of guy, but parental acceptance for the gay son or daughter seldom happens in the now. Some days I'm holding my parents' hands, walking side-by-side with them. Other days I'm in front trying to pull them along or in back pushing them to move a little faster. Only now am I realizing that our best days come when I sit back and let them walk at their own pace. After all, it did take one grandmother 84 years.

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National Organization Wants You

Deborah Bonsack, Executive Director of An Uncommon Legacy Foundation and the Lesbian Leadership Fund announced today that the organization has created a membership program for all grant and scholarship recipients, donors, volunteers and other supporters.

The Foundation which was incorporated in 1993 has provided grants to more than 150 organizations that benefit and serve the lesbian community and annually awards a series of Lesbian Leadership Scholarships to "out" graduate and undergraduate lesbian students with leadership potential.

"Legacy has touched so many lives through our grants and our Lesbian Leadership Scholarship Fund. This is an attempt to maintain the contact, the commitment and the belief that so many individuals have in Legacy" Bonsack stated from the organization's National Headquarters in Washington, DC. "Legacy is all about the power of lesbian philanthropy and it is truly exciting to see the vision of our founders coming to fruition. Our early scholarship recipients are now moving into positions of influence where they can make significant contributions to the Foundation and continue the cycle of giving and helping young lesbians achieve their goals."

Through the membership program the organization plans to strengthen the links between recipients, volunteers and donors both in the past and present as well as those that will come in the future. The membership program will also help the Foundation in its efforts to raise more funds for distribution to the lesbian community and increase public awareness of the organization.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation will be working through cooperative relationships with other not-for-profit and for-profit lesbian and gay organizations to build the membership base. "I believe that corporations and sponsors will be surprised to see the volume of individuals who are part of this movement, who have built and believe in Legacy and the Lesbian Leadership Fund." stated Bonsack. "Besides, what self-respecting lesbian wouldn't want to have their own membership card- it's fun with a purpose!"

More information on the membership program is available online at the An Uncommon Legacy Foundation website www.UncommonLegacy.org

Edmonton

PRIDE WEEK SOCIETY

Monthly General Meeting

Volunteers Needed

March 27
8 PM
The Garage

Everyone Welcome

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton

Providing Resources, Referrals, and Support about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues

This month at GLCCE

Men Talking Together
Sundays 7-9 at GLCCE

Youth Understanding Youth
Saturdays 7-9 at GLCCE

Women's Night drop in
Thursdays 7-10 at GLCCE

Bisexual Support Group
Last Wednesday of every month
7-9 at GLCCE

Volunteering

Right now, we're particularly in need of hosts to welcome visitors to GLCCE, answer the phone, and provide referrals to community resources.

Our Resources

Community Referrals: We provide information on community resources.

Library: Our library has novels, reference books, and videos with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender themes, as well as free high-speed internet access.

Online: GLCCE's website has up-to-date information on community groups, events, and other online resources.

Centre Hours: Monday to Friday 1:30 to 5:30 and 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. (Please call ahead to confirm that the centre is open as we are currently short of hosts.)

#45, 9912 - 106 Street
(780) 488-3234
glcce@compusmart.ab.ca
www.edmc.net/glcce

Job opportunity at GLCCE

Program Administrator
Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE)

GLCCE is seeking a program administrator to coordinate the activities of the organization. This is initially a six-month term position starting May 1, 2003 with a strong possibility of renewal. The successful candidate must have strong communications skills, proven experience working with volunteers and be able to multi-task with a minimum of direction. Preference will be given to individuals with experience working with volunteer boards and committees, are proficient with computers and knowledgeable about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual or transgendered people and their supporters. The ideal candidate would have a strong network of local contacts but this is not necessary.
Duties to be performed include:

- Develop and manage a volunteer coordination program, including recruitment, placement, support and training
- Work with the board and volunteers to develop and monitor program plans including activity schedules and budgets
- Liaise with community, project partners and stakeholders to develop partnerships, new programs and services
- Manage the organization's membership and contacts database
- Provide support to the Board of Directors and program committees
- Take lead role for the management of the lending library, including lending procedures and the acquisition and development of new resources
- Develop and implement administrative policies, procedures for basic centre operations and the program projects undertaken
- Provide support and supervision to placement students and project staff
- Monitor and prepare regular reports on program statistics, centre activities and program outcomes
- Assist with the preparation of applications for funding, proposals for partners, etc.
- Take lead role to coordinate fundraising projects, e.g., soliciting donations, silent auctions, dinner theatre, etc.
- Maintain current list of community resources available for members and patrons

This is a term position. The hourly rate is contingent on the successful candidate's skills and experience. No benefits are provided. Hours are flexible but the candidate will be expected to work a range of 35-40 hours per week, including some evening and weekend work as required. Preference will be given to candidates with a valid drivers license and a reliable vehicle as travel in Edmonton is sometimes required.

Resumes are to be submitted Attention Hiring Committee to glcce@interbaun.com or #45, 9916 106 Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 1C5
Competition closes March 21, 2003

Goliath's Raid Remains On The National Agenda

By Stephen Lock

The after effects of the December 12th, 2002 against Calgary's only gay steambath, Goliath's, continues to reverberate throughout the country.

Unfortunately, several of the men charged as "found-ins" opted for Alternative Measures out of concerns over the publicity this case created. Those charged as "keepers" have opted to plead not guilty. One man charged as a "found-in", **Terry Haldane**, has reserved plea pending Disclosure documents being sent to his lawyer by the Crown Prosecutor's Office. He has stated in several queer media interviews that he fully intends to fight back, and is prepared to take his challenge to the Supreme Court.

Several organizations across Canada are rallying behind the men. EGALE (Equality for Gays And Lesbians Everywhere), the national glbtq lobby group, quickly issued a Press Statement in December 2002 condemning the raid. Xtra West and Xtra have run stories on the raid, with Xtra West publishing a Special Calgary Supplement (10,000 copies) that was on Calgary newsstands within a few days of the raid.

The Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO) is producing a Goliath's Defense Fund pamphlet and distributing it to bathhouses and clubs in the Toronto area. Letters of support and donations have come in from Vancouver, Fort McMurray, and Victoria.

Stephen Lock and Keith Purdy, who spearheaded the response to the raid, have now been joined by Bruce Freeman, a PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology at the University of Calgary, David Bennett of The Canadian Union of Postal Employees, and Rick Kennedy to form a small organization tentatively known as the **Diversity in Society Coalition** (DISC).

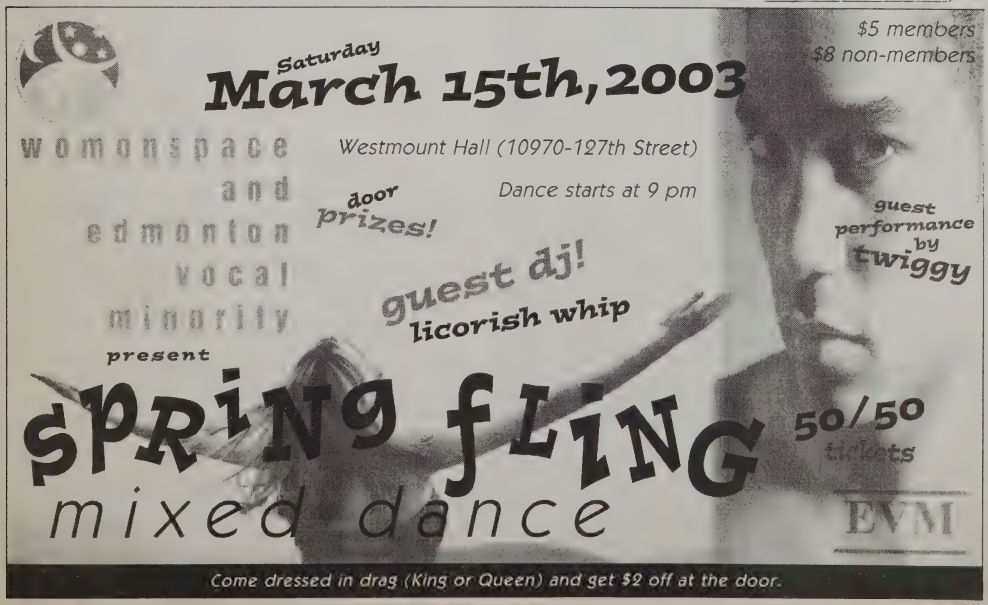
The focus of DISC, as it has been from the beginning, is to bring attention to the police violation of gay space, the invasion of privacy, the arbitrariness of the "Common Bawdy House" laws, and the unfairness of having the very agents of the state (the police) who lay charges, deciding what is and what is not "indecent".

The Goliath's Defense Fund, established by Stephen Lock, was set up to defray the legal expenses of the "found-ins". To date, there is just under $1,000.00 in the fund. More funds are needed. Donations, by cheque or money order, can be made payable to "*Stephen Lock and/or Keith Purdy*". In the memo section issuers should write "*to be held in trust for the Goliath's Defense Fund*". Cash donations are also welcome, but cash sent through the mail is discouraged. Donations can be sent to:

The Goliath's Defense Fund
C/o The Calgary Eagle
424- a 8th Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2G 0L7

The next date of court appearances is February 28th, 2003 in Calgary Provincial Court (323 – 6 Ave SE) at 9am. At that time, the defendants will enter pleas and have a trial date set. Another rally is being organized for in front of the Provincial Court Building.

For more information call Stephen Lock at (403) 708-5302 (stlock@nucleus.com) or Keith Purdy at (403) 240-3485 (c/o rudyken@hotmail.com).



International Community

Unprepared For Humanitarian Disaster In IRAQ

Confidential U.N. Documents Reveal Grave Concern Over Impact of War

A US-led military intervention in Iraq will trigger the collapse of Iraq's public health and food distribution system, leading to a humanitarian crisis that far exceeds the capacity of the United Nations and relief agencies, according to a report released at the U.N. by the New York-based *Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)*. At the same time of the release, Secretary-General Kofi Annan will address a closed session of the Security Council on the potential humanitarian consequences of war in Iraq.

CESR will also release a set of confidential U.N. planning documents that warn of a "humanitarian emergency of exceptional scale and magnitude" based on the expected collapse of Iraq's civilian infrastructure following attacks on Iraq's electricity and transportation systems. One document estimates that "in the event of a crisis, 30 percent of children under five would be at risk of death from malnutrition."

CESR's research team, which visited Iraq from January 17-30, included six experts in food security and nutrition, public health infrastructure, primary and public health care, and emergency and curative medicine. The team was given unusually free access to investigate a wide range of civilian sites throughout Iraq and interview government and U.N. officials.

"Iraq has become like a vast refugee camp," said Ronald Waldman, Professor of Clinical Public Health and Director of the Program on Forced Migration and Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. "The population survives largely on government food rations and depends on a fragile public health system. They are extremely vulnerable to war."

"Our report confirms that international relief agencies are unlikely to avert a major humanitarian disaster in the event of war," said Michael Van Rooyen, Director of the Center for International Emergency, Disaster and Refugee Studies at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The U.N. has stated that the Oil-For-Food Program, which has almost $11 billion in undelivered humanitarian supplies still in the pipeline, will be suspended once war breaks out. Over 15 million Iraqis who depend for survival on the monthly food rations could be left with no means of support.

"**The $30 million in emergency aid pledged by the U.S. and U.K will cover one day's worth of supplies under OFF,**" said Sarah Zaidi, CESR Research Director. "The people planning this war must have no understanding of the suffering they will impose on innocent men, women and children in Iraq." The report calls on the Security Council to address critical questions of humanitarian concern before taking any decision on war:

Are civilian life support systems, in particular electricity, water, and sanitation, considered military targets as in the 1991 war?

Are there contingency plans to prevent repetition of the "cycle of death" caused by increased malnutrition and disease, especially among children?

What will happen to Iraqi government food distribution and public health systems in areas occupied by U.S. and other military forces?

What will happen to humanitarian supplies currently provided through the Oil-for-Food Program?

How will the international community mobilize the enormous aid package necessary to mitigate a disaster?

Why are humanitarian response plans being developed in secrecy and without necessary coordination among key actors?

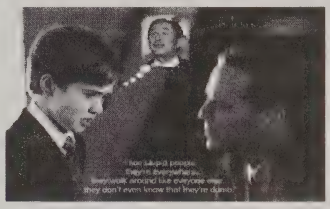
Will the U.S. military allow international relief agencies independent access to affected populations as required by humanitarian principles and international law?

Copies of the Executive Summary of the Research Team's report, access to the confidential U.N. documents, and photos and video from the Iraq mission will be available at the briefing.

The Center for Economic and Social Rights, based in New York is a non-partisan international organization dedicated to promoting social justice through human rights. CESR executive staff has led six humanitarian missions to Iraq, including the Harvard Study Team and International Study Team missions in March and August of 1991, and a 1996 legal mission that documented human rights violations caused by Security Council sanctions and was featured on *60 Minutes*. For further information on CESR's Iraq project, please visit www.cesr.org/iraq or contact Ayliz Baskin at (718) 237-9145 ext. 13 or abaskin@cesr.org.

Differences

President George W. Bush is visiting an elementary school, and he visits one of the classes. They are in the middle of a discussion related to words and their meanings. The teacher asks the President if he would like to lead the class in the discussion of the word "tragedy". So the illustrious leader asks the class for an example of a "tragedy". One little boy stands up and offers, "If my best friend, who lives next door, is playing in the street and a car comes along and runs him over, that would be a tragedy. "No", says Mr. Bush, "that would be an ACCIDENT." A little girl raises her hand: "If a school bus carrying 50 children drove off a cliff, killing everyone involved, that would be a tragedy." "I'm afraid not," explains Mr. President. "That's what we would call a GREAT LOSS." The room goes silent. No other children volunteer. President Bush searches the room. "Isn't there someone here who can give me an example of a tragedy?" Finally, way in the back of the room, a small boy raises his hand. In a quiet voice he says, "If Air Force One, carrying Mr. Bush, were struck by a missile and blown up to smithereens, by a terrorist like Osama bin Laden, that would be a tragedy." "Fantastic," exclaims Bush, "that's right. And can you tell me WHY that would be a TRAGEDY?" "Well," says the boy, "because it wouldn't be an accident, and it certainly wouldn't be a great loss.



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Speaking of "Normal"

Sorry!

"Speaking Of Normal" Will not be appearing in the March issue of Times .10

"Speaking Of Normal" Will re-appear in the April Issue

World Peace?

By Mike Gesy

So, it's 2003 and I smell war in the air. Around the world, there are protests against the U.S.A.-led war. Many people think this war is over oil and money and that is probably true. Yet there is so much more to this than meets the eye, don't you think?

It is true that the United States of America is the most powerful country in the world, but how did they accomplish that? Did the world not play a small part in making the United States what it is today? In my opinion, the United States has every right to make Iraq a parking lot! Does September 11, 2002 ring a bell for any of you? As much as we would all like for this world to be peaceful, the reality is that it is not. Many people say that the United States asked for it. Maybe the government did, but surely not all the innocent people in the towers.

People around the world love to point out all the bad things the United States has done and, admittedly, there are a lot. People seem to forget that the United States has done much good as well; thanks to the media, we only seem to focus on the bad. Bad stuff makes the front page and sells.

I have heard many people say that the United States should stop interfering in the affairs of other countries, should just "butt out" so to speak, but it is better to play offensively than defensively. If the United States were to now stop what they are doing and simply let things be, and either the U.S. or Canada was to then be rocked by nuclear or chemical weaponry from Iraq, then all of a sudden people would be more in favour of a war. Why wait for disaster to strike first? Why not take a preventive approach?

However, we as Canadians have assumed a peacekeeping role, and do not wish to involve ourselves in a war. Canada does not wish to involve itself in this war for two main reasons: first, Canada does not have the cash to be able to go to war, and second, Canadians only go in once the Americans have already done the job. We clean up the mess, and I guess keep the peace.

The world has allowed the United States to become what it is today. For all those who hate the United States, stop buying their cars, their clothes, and their computers. If you are so anti-American, then stop watching their television programs and buying their music. In short, boycott anything American! Oh, but wait just a minute! We, as Canadians, cannot afford to do that! That is because we love to shop at American-owned stores such as Wal-Mart, the Gap, Old Navy, Petsmart, McDonald's, and Wendy's, to name a few. As much as you may hate to admit it, we have been thoroughly Americanized. Can you name five big Canadian-owned chain stores?

Anyway, as for this pending war with Iraq, Saddam Hussein is insane and should not be in power. He has lied, both to the United Nations and to the world, about not having chemical weapons or bombs. Why would someone lie about such things unless they were planning to use them?

The world got a big kick in the balls on September 11, 2002, when it was shocked and made to mourn. The United States did not launch an immediate counter-attack, did they? Bush took his time, to ensure that the people of the United States knew what they were up against. The American people, and the rest of the world, wanted to find out who had committed the atrocity. In the end they did find out, and they gave the people of Afghanistan the chance to relinquish Osama bin Laden to the proper authorities. The people of Afghanistan chose instead to celebrate the loss of American – and Canadian - lives that occurred on September 11, 2002.

Then, around the world, we began to hear of other terrorist attacks, some in Britain, and continued assaults within the United States. Even our own great country was threatened. Yet this does not appear to be sufficient to wake Canadians up to the fact that something needs to be done. What is necessary to open the eyes of all Canadians? I guess we could all just wait until terrorists strike again and kill more innocent people. It seems as though we care more for the people of Iraq than the people of Canada. I just do not understand that.

I do not like war, and I am sure that the rest of you do not like it either. Neither do I like hearing about hundreds of our own innocent people dying for things beyond our control. The United States and Canada stand for freedom! Our own people fought and died for the freedom that we enjoy today. It is the same for the Americans. Every country has its faults; try to remember that the next time you are tempted to judge another nation.

Anyway, that is just my own personal take on the pending war and the ongoing battle against terrorism.

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Geography Club

By Brent Hartinger

Geography Club Tells Timely Tale Of Gay-Straight Alliance
By Joe Gable

In 1989, exactly one American high school had a gay-straight alliance. Now over 1000 high schools do and many of them are making headlines—lately in Boyd County, Kentucky, and Klein, Texas, where administrators are desperately trying to shut the clubs down.

Now gay-straight alliances have also found their way into the pages of a book, in the new gay teen novel, *Geography Club*.

"It's the story of a group of students who want to form a gay-straight alliance at their high school," said author Brent Hartinger. "Problem is, they don't want anyone to know they're gay. So they disguise the true nature of their club—and discourage anyone else from joining it—by giving it the most boring name they can think of: the Geography Club. Unfortunately, their disguise doesn't last."

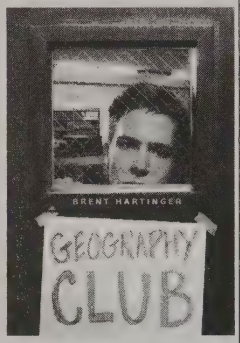
Hartinger's novel is getting a much warmer reception than those gay-straight alliances in Kentucky and Texas. Advance sales have been "terrific," said Steve Fraser, Hartinger's editor at HarperCollins, the publisher of the book.

"There's already been interest in the foreign rights and in the movie rights too," Fraser said.

"HarperCollins has been unbelievably supportive," Hartinger said, pointing out that the publisher has already bought a *Geography Club* sequel, *The Order of the Poison Oak*, and two of the writer's other novels.

"That's four books," Hartinger said in amazement. "And that was before *Geography Club* had even been released!"

Early industry reviews have been consistently stellar. *The Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books* called the book "a lively and compelling story" and praised its "witty writing" and "heart-palpitating romance." *Horn Book Magazine* called *Geography Club*'s narration "pitch-perfect,"



and said, "This is the most artful and authentic depiction of a gay teen since M. E. Kerr's groundbreaking Charlie Gilhooly in *I'll Love You When You're More Like Me*."

"Everything has worked out so well for this book," Hartinger said. "Sometimes I have to pinch myself to make sure I'm not dreaming."

With all the attention being paid to gay-straight alliances in high schools across the country, the timing for the book couldn't seem to be better.

"I wish I could say it was because of some brilliant marketing strategy on my part," Hartinger said. "But the truth is, it's just a coincidence. In fact, I didn't even want to write the book, because I was convinced no publisher would ever buy it."

Hartinger said he was discouraged by the reaction to his first gay young adult book, which he wrote back in the early 1990s.

"It won a couple of major writing awards," he said. "But the reaction among New York publishers was indifference bordering on outright hostility. One editor told me outright that there was absolutely no market for a book about gay teens. If it hadn't been for my agent—a straight woman—I never would have written another gay teen book. She talked me into writing *Geography Club*, because she was convinced that the times had changed, and that the world was finally ready for just such a book."

"It's partly good timing," said Hartinger's agent, Jennifer DeChiara, explaining the early success of the novel. "But I give most of the credit to the book itself. I mean, this book has everything. Humour, romance, passion. I spend all day reading manuscripts, and I know a page-turner when I read one."

For his part, Hartinger is just glad the book is drawing still more attention to the subject of gay-straight alliances.

"I think most adults have no idea what gay high school kids go through," said Hartinger, who helped found a gay-support organization in his hometown of Tacoma, Washington, and who currently acts as an advisor to a gay-straight alliance at his old high school.

"I think sometimes even some of us adult gay men and women forget," he said. "We move to the big cities and start to think that the whole world is gay-tolerant. Hopefully, my book will remind people that some of the most courageous heroes in the gay rights struggle are still in their teens."

For more information about *Geography Club*, visit "Brent's Brain," Hartinger's website at www.brenthartinger.com.

NOTICE

The AGM
(Annual General Meeting)
of the Jean Lawson Society

and call for
new memberships/volunteers

will be held starting at 7:00 pm
Wednesday April 9, 2003
at 10724-124 St., Edmonton, AB
(Conrad's Sugar Bowl Coffee House)
– Parking Available In Back –

The meeting agenda will be published on or before March 15, 2003 and will be made available at Illusions Computer Services located at 10724-124 Street (780) 447-2311

The Jean Lawson Society

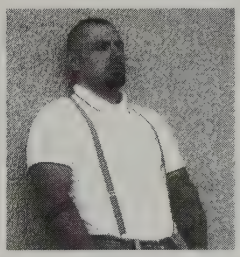
Addicted to Ink

By: Mike Sinnott

I will start his month's article with a little disclosure. This is somewhat embarrassing being so public about one's addictions, but this needs to be said. I am a 100% tattoo junkie, ink slut, marked man.

Wow, that was easier than I thought. I guess I am making some fun about what is perhaps my single biggest fetish in life (other than the one for facial hair). I love tattoos. Anyone who knows me can tell you that nothing gets me more excited than the prospect of getting a new tattoo. I have a little list on my lap top with upcoming projects and how and when to fit them in, and how I will pay for the damn things. Sad isn't it.

Being as visibly inked as I am, there never seems to be a shortage of questions about tattoos thrown at me. They range from very basic, to sometimes very personal. This article will try an answer some of them, and place the whole tattoo thing into the cultural context of leather. Let's hope I succeed, and perhaps get you hooked on tattoos as well.



Do they hurt?

This is probably the most common question I get. There is only one answer. YES! They hurt. I am a big wimp, and let me tell you that the actual process of getting tattooed is quite painful. Some body parts are worse than others. This is also probably the biggest issue that stops people from getting a tattoo. It is also what keeps people getting more of them. It does hurt to get a tattoo done, but it's not awful. The first one I got done was actually not that painful, and therefore opened a Pandora's Box so to speak. If you survive your first tattoo, you will most likely get more, be forewarned.

Did you spend time in Jail?

No. I did not. I get this one lots since I got my knuckles done. Tattoos have in western culture a history of being associated with bad asses. Bikers, sailors, and convicts are among those in the west who have been getting tattooed long before they became trendy. There are still some social taboos when it comes to tattoos and their placement. When the current trend for tattooing started some 10 years ago, the rule for many people was that any tattoo they got had to be easily covered, so that they could still look "respectable". Full sleeves, hand, face, and neck tattoos are still left to those wanting to push the envelope.

Tattooing my knuckles was a big leap for me. There was no turning back once I got them done, and I knew that once they were done, some people's perception of me would change forever

Why did you get a ruler tattooed on your arm?

Well, if you really want to know this come and ask, if you can't think up a reason for yourself, that is. Tattoos in many cultures are a right of passage. This view is often the same in western culture. Getting a tattoo for many people is right of passage and symbol of some major event in their life. Some look at them as a symbol of who they are as a person, and where they come from. For those in the "counter culture", tattoos are a symbol of defiance against societal norms. They make grannies cross the street in order to avoid being near you.

Why do you see so many leather folk with tattoos?

Tattoos have a long history in the world of leather and BDSM. There are probably many reasons. First, one has to remember that leather, in the gay male sense, has long had associations with the world of bikers, and motorcycle clubs. In fact, many of the first gay male leather clubs were motorcycle clubs. With that direct linkage, tattoos were also adopted along with the clothing.

When you live a lifestyle that is outside the norm, it can often become an all or nothing experience. Though many leather folk have regular jobs and live very normal lives, many long for the day they can truly come out of the closet. When you live outside those societal norms, you have nothing much to loose by adding piercings and tattoos to the mix. This is part of the allure of tattoos to leather folk. Those who already are far out of the leather closet have nothing to lose. People will already view them in a negative light, tattooed or not.

Are tattoos safe?

Well if you go to a reputable shop and artist, yes. When you have made the decision to get at tattoo, shop around. Make sure that the shop you are looking at uses new needles for each client. Also make sure that they autoclave all

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the more permanent equipment between uses. This goes the same for body piercers. Your tattoo artist should be wearing surgical gloves when tattooing you, and change them each time he touches something other than you or the equipment he is using. If these guidelines are met, there is very little risk of any major issues. Just make sure after it's done you follow the aftercare instructions given to you.

Also, since this is something that will be on your body for life, it is usually a good plan to get to know your artist, and get a good idea of the work they do, Some tattoo artists are better with certain styles (such as Celtic, Tribal) than with others. Ask them to see their "book" of previous work and drawings. Just remember you will be under their needle at times for hours (depending on what you are getting done), and that it costs ten times more to have a tattoo removed than it cost to have put on. Make sure you are getting something you like. Do your homework.

I hope this has answered a few questions.

On February 15, I had the pleasure of attending the "Meet the Speakers" event of Lupercalia, and Northern Chap's Black Ice party. Both of these events were a great deal of fun. I enjoyed the somewhat low key style of the two events, as it gave people the opportunity to go around and talk to each other. This is a great way for people new the scene to get to know us, and us them. There were all sorts of new faces out. I hope that, as the year continues, we will see you at more events this year.

Up coming stuff? Well March is proving to be very busy. I will be hosting an event called "Paint the Pigs" at the Calgary Eagle on Friday, March 7th. On Saturday, March 15th, B & D Leathers is sponsoring the Absolute Kink Party at Buddies. I will also be bringing the "Paint the Pigs" events to the show on Saturday, March 29th.

Regular events are still going as well. ECUM (Edmonton's Community of Uniformed Men) meets at Boots on the second Saturday of the month. Keep in mind that they are looking for a "Few Good Men". ECUM and Boots are hosting the Mr. Boots contest on Saturday May 10th.

Northern Chaps still has their bar nights on the first and third Saturday of the month.

Edmonton "O" Society meets at Boots/The Garage on Sunday March 2nd and Wednesday, March 12th, for their "Munchies".

Finally, Marla, Ms. Edmonton Leather 2002, is looking for a "Few Good Women". The Ms. Edmonton Leather contest is on Saturday, April 5th. If there are any women looking at running, I know that Secrets, Boots, and B&D (as well as s few other locations, that escape me right now) have information packages. If you have questions about being Ms. Edmonton leather, please feel free to get in contact with Marla.

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Two Spirits In Motion

1st Canadian Forum On Two Spirit Peoples, HIV/ Aids And Health: Building Healthy Attitudes In Families And Communities

Robert Wm. Smith
HIV Edmonton

On the weekend of February 6th To 8th, 2003, the *1st Canadian Forum On Two Spirit Peoples, HIV/AIDS and Health* was held in Edmonton at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. The forum was hosted by the Two Spirits in Motion Working Group, presently a program of the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE), and the Nechi Institute. Funding came from Corrections Canada and two pockets within Health Canada. The funding for the Two Spirits in Motion Project comes from the Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF).

The forum was held, in part, to generate ideas that will assist the Edmonton Two Spirits In Motion Working Group in developing a strategy to deal with Two Spirit health issues, specifically HIV/AIDS. This strategy is being developed in partnership with GLCCE, HIV Edmonton and the Canadian Native Friendship Centres as a collaborative community initiative. The results of the forum, however, will go beyond the strategy and will form the basis of an ongoing discussion of Two Spirit issues on a national level.

Across the board, the HIV infection rates among the Aboriginal Peoples are on the rise. The stats cross over by clumping the Two Spirit population into the categories of MSM and IDU (men who have sex with men and intravenous drug users). AIDS Service Organizations in Canada estimate that the overall infection rates for the male Two Spirit population to be a significant proportion of the overall rates including that combining MSM/ IDU.

It is generally held that HIV/ AIDS and other health concerns are not isolated onto themselves. These issues are the warning bells that are ringing out the many areas of distress in our social/ political and economic structures and human support systems. The determinants of health have been discussed often, and in addressing HIV within Two Spirit populations, we are forced to consider these determinants with an even more discerning eye than used with gay/bisexual/ MSM.

The gathering was an interactive dialogue between up to 70 participants from across Canada. Each of the participants was affiliated with, or represented, a grass roots approach to health and social service delivery. The forum was structured to allow for every voice to be heard and every idea to be considered. The break off sessions moved the participants toward tangible and implementable solutions to complex historic, social, economic and cultural issues as they impact HIV infection rates in this population.

Tradition played a significant part in free flow of dialogue and thoughtful consideration of the ideas put forth at the forum. The inclusion of respect, protocol, and historic reference contributed to a collaborative atmosphere in reaching consensus for the development of immediate, mid term and long term solutions.

It is unfortunate that there wasn't a larger attendance by the greater gay and lesbian community. The forum was a great learning experience. The traditional role of Two Spirit peoples among some Aboriginal cultures is one of respect and honour. Those born Two Spirit among these cultures were thought to have been given a special gift by the Creator. These beliefs were quashed by the moral traditions of European religions.

An investment of time, energy and resources by the GLBTT community in promoting the return to pre-contact beliefs regarding Two Spirit peoples within Aboriginal communities would be of significant benefit to the rights and equality movement in the greater GLBTT communities. When, in our European history particularly, were we as a people treated with respect and honour? Our causes are connected and we would be better for it by creating links in our communities to strengthen them.

I want to commend some of the players in the organization and hosting of the *1st Canadian Forum on Two Spirit Peoples, HIV/AIDS and Health*: Dale Ahenakwew, Chair of The Two Spirits in Motion Working Group, Richard Jenkins from Nechi Institute, Ruth Morin, CEO of Nechi Institute, the members of the Working Group, Sylvia Maracle (Skonaganhlira), Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, Helen Thundercloud who coordinated the event and the wonderful staff of Nechi Institute who juggled the details. I also commend each of the participants at the forum, some of whom are true inspiration, i.e. Art Zoccole, Executive Director of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and others. Great forum, good job!

HIV Edmonton was chosen to sit on a national working group that will bring together the ideas from the forum and make recommendations for programming changes and initiatives right across Canada. We will share more on the ideas that come forth from the forum and types of solutions that will be adopted locally, provincially and nationally.

The Pride Pages 2003

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You and Your Funny Bone..:)

Words of Wisdom

A Rabbi was opening his mail one morning. Taking the single sheet of paper from an envelope he found written on it only one word. "SCHMUCK". The next Friday night he announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their names". But this week, I received a letter from someone who signed his name and forgot to write a letter.

Three buttons

Mullah Mohammed Hasan Akhund, the deputy Taliban leader, and George W. Bush agree to meet in Kabul for the first round of talks in a new anti-terrorism process. When George sits down, he notices three buttons on the arm of Akhund's chair.

They begin talking. After about five minutes Akhund presses the first button. A boxing glove springs out of a box on the desk and punches Bush in the face.

Annoyed, Bush carries on talking as Akhund laughs. A few minutes later the second button is pressed. This time a big boot comes out and kicks Bush in the shin. Again Akhund laughs, and again George carries on talking, not wanting to put off the bigger issue of peace between the two countries. But when the third button is pressed and another boot comes out and kicks Bush square in the privates, he's finally had enough. "I'm headin' back home!" he calmly tells the Afghan. "We'll finish these talks in Washington in two weeks!"

A fortnight passes and Akhund flies to the United States for talks. As the two men sit down, Akhund notices three buttons on Bush's chair arm and prepares himself for the Texan's retaliation. They begin talking and George presses the first button. Akhund ducks, but nothing happens. George snickers but they continue talking. A few minutes later he presses the second button. Akhund jumps up, but again nothing happens.

Bush roars with laughter. They continue the talks but when the third button is pressed, Akhund jumps up again, but again nothing happens. Bush falls on the floor in a fit of hysterics. "Forget this," says Akhund. "I'm going back to Afghanistan!"

George W. says, through tears of laughter, "What Afghanistan??"

Patience!

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his boots? He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on.

When the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on — this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

She said, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots. . ."

Health Care

A wealthy hospital benefactor was visiting the local hospital, when, during her tour of floors, she passed a room where a male patient was masturbating.

"Oh my GOD!" said the woman, "That's disgraceful! Why is he doing that?"

The doctor who was leading the tour explained... "I'm sorry, but this man has a very serious condition where the testicles rapidly fill with semen. If he doesn't do that five times a day, they will explode, and he'll die within minutes."

"Oh, that's terrible," said the woman.

In the very next room, they saw a female nurse who was performing oral sex on another male patient. "OH, my GOD!" said the woman, "How can that be justified?!?" The doctor replied, "Same illness, better health plan."

Dodging Cars

There's a man trying to cross the street. As he steps off the curb a car comes screaming around the corner and heads straight for him. The man walks faster, trying to hurry across the street, but the car changes lanes and is still coming at him. So the guy turns around to go back, but the car changes lanes again and is still coming at him. By now, the car is so close and the man so scared that he just freezes and stops in the middle of the road.

The car gets real close, then swerves at the last possible moment and screeches to a halt right next him. The driver rolls down the window. The driver is a squirrel. The squirrel says to the man says, "See, it's not aseasy as it looks, is it?"

Dividing Nuts [classic]

Two boy scouts went on a nature hike in the hills picking hickory nuts. Along the way, they filled their small pails and

then started to fill their pockets and shirts.

When they could hold no more nuts, they started down the country road until they came across a cemetery. The boys decided that would be a good place to stop and rest and divide out the nuts.

The two boys sat in the shade of a large oak tree and unloaded their pockets and buckets by dumping all of the nuts in a large pile.

In the process, two of them rolled away and rested near the road. The boys then proceeded to divide out the nuts. "One for you, One for me, One for you, One for me."

As they were doing this, another boy was passing by and happened to hear them. He looked into the cemetery, but could not see the boys, because the tree obscured them. He hesitated a moment and then ran back to town.

"Father! Father!" he yelled as he entered his house. "The cemetery. Come quick!"

"What's the matter?" his father asked.

"No time to explain," the boy frantically panted. "Follow me!"

The boy and his father ran up the country road and stopped when they reached the cemetery. They stopped at the side of the road and all fell silent for a few moments. Then the father asked his son what was wrong.

"Do you hear that?" he whispered. Both people listened intently and heard the Scouts. "One for me, One for you, One for me, One for you..."

The boy then blurted out, "The devil and the Lord are dividing the souls!"

The father was sceptical but silent — until a few moments later as the Scouts completed dividing out the nuts and one Scout said to the other, "Now, as soon as we get those two nuts down by the road, we'll have them all."

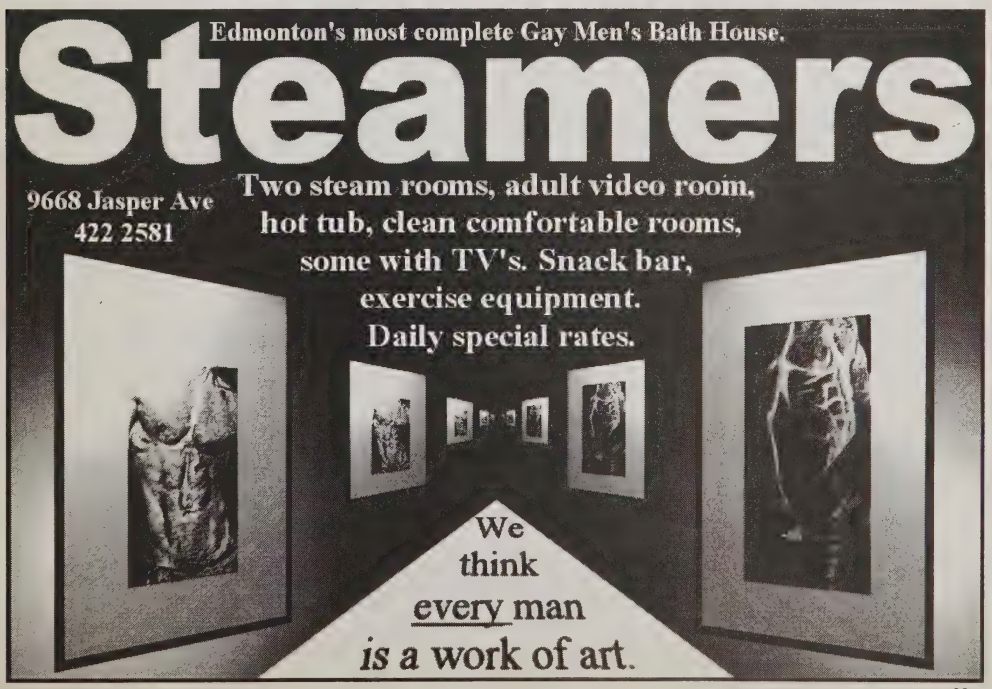
Problem with gas

A little old lady goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, I have this problem with gas, but it really doesn't bother me too much. They never smell and are always silent. As a matter of fact, I've passed gas at least 20 times since I've been here in your office. You didn't know I was passing gas because they don't smell and are silent.

The doctor says, "I see, take these pills and come back to see me next week."

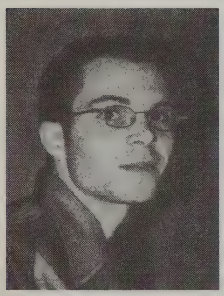
The next week the lady goes back. "Doctor," she says, "I don't know what medicine you gave me, but now my gas... although still silent...smells terrible."

The doctor says, "Good!!! Now that we've cleared up your sinuses, let's work on your hearing."



My Monthly Neurosis

Rob Browatzke



As easy as it would be, this month's neurosis has nothing to do with this nasty cold weather (we all chose to live in Edmonton after all). It also has nothing to do with this new plague of reality shows, where bitchy tribunals pronounce judgement on everything from how well you sing to how hot you are; to these shows I simply say: you are the ugliest link, goodbye. No, instead this is one of those potpourris of gay life, touching briefly on this, that, and all things lavender.

For people whose social and work lives exist almost entirely within the gay community, those boundaries can get quite complicated. Two people can end up having a very complicated relationship when they socialize together, work together, volunteer together, and it can get difficult in separating those "boxes". Still, that separation is necessary. Stress that impacts one aspect of the relationship need not affect the other aspects. Not talking about work when out partying as friends, for example, is the easiest way to avoid those kind of pitfalls and snares.

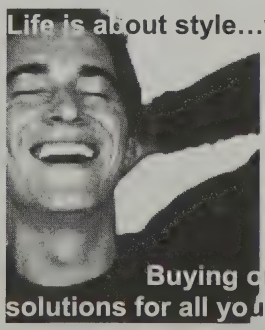
The word "fresh" does not only apply to produce. It's also very important when it comes to sex, externally and internally. Sexual sanitation can be (too often) overlooked in the heat of the moment, which can lead to awkward situations for all involved. No one wants to "dine at the downstairs restaurant" if the table isn't properly cleaned. Sorry if that's too metaphorical but it's a family column and I didn't really want to say "douche if you wanna get topped". Or, to paraphrase an oh-so-knowledgeable friend: " you do realize that your bottom is an export facility, right? Well, if you're planning on receiving a shipment, you better make sure the loading dock is clear!"

Drama queens abound in a nightclub world of shiny happy twinkies (hereafter called poodles). You know the type, everything's a crisis, but no crisis lasts long. What is it that makes some people wear their emotions so publically? Is it simply the deep-seated craving for attention? The result of one-too-many shooters? Or is it simply that some people feel what they feel so intensely that it cannot be contained? Whatever the case, the easiest way to deal with drama queens is enjoy the show.

Even when in a monogamous relationship, there is nothing wrong with harmless flirtation. I'm sure everyone admits to at least looking at other people when they're in a relationship. What's okay beyond looking is something every couple needs to decide for themselves. Dancing with another guy when you are at the bar with your boyfriend? That doesn't seem so bad. If that dance is a bit risqué? Still, it's just a dance, and dancing isn't a sin; I've seen Footloose. Hugging a friend hello or goodbye? Kissing a friend? What if that friend is an ex? The area between innocent physical contact and "cheating" needs to be defined by both people involved. The point is, though, if it's not actual sex, do you really care if your monogamous boyfriend flirts, dances, whatever, even in front of you?

Breaks are good, even for the best of friends. As much as you laugh together, as intimate as you get, sometimes, enough is enough. Pulling back, spending time apart, provides you both with an opportunity to reflect on your experiences and feelings. As with anything else, too much can be just that, too much. Separation, as difficult as it can sometimes be, allows you both to come back refreshed, renewed, and ready to laugh again. Absence makes the friendly heart grow fonder, as much as it does the romantic heart.

So there you go. Another month, another two cents worth of pointless drivel. I do get a few emails indicating someone out there reads and enjoys this, but I've also been asked to point out that I have no qualifications to offer any insight on any topic whatsoever, so there's the disclaimer for ya. Now make me neurotic so I can give a good rant in April.



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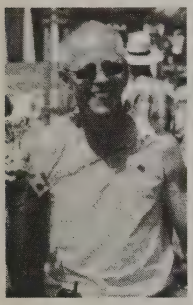
I Hope You'll Dance

Lambda Christian Community Church

I heard a song I love several times in the past few weeks. When I first heard Lee Ann Womack sing



I Hope You'll Dance on Oprah I thought that it was a song that should be used in church. There is no indication to whom she is singing, although it would seem likely that it is a child. But what she hopes for them, I believe God must wish for us all. She sings:

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder, May you never take one single breath for granted, I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean, Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens, Promise me you'll give faith a fighting chance, And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you'll dance.

I think that we should try to consider what it is that keeps us sitting out the dance to which God has invited us and I thought maybe a woman from long ago named Miriam could teach our souls to dance. Although Moses got most of the credit for leading the children of Israel out of slavery, it was really a team of leaders. In the book of Micah it says, "For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and I sent before you Moses, Miriam, and Aaron." Miriam's role had to be significant if the patriarchal men who wrote the Bible regarded her as a leader to be remembered. Miriam was the first woman that history recorded as having worked outside the home. She was not identified as anyone's wife or mother or daughter. She was a prophet and a leader of the people of God.

You may remember from Sunday School the story of how Pharaoh became fearful the Hebrew slaves were becoming too numerous so he ordered all male babies killed. To save him, Moses' mother put him in a basket and floated him down the river. Miriam, his older sister was assigned to keep watch over the basket. When Pharaoh's daughter fished the basket out of the Nile, it was Miriam who offered to find a Hebrew slave to be the boy's nurse. Thus, Moses was raised in Pharaoh's house, but by his own mother.

Many years later, when God sent Moses to Pharaoh to demand he let God's people go, God also called his brother Aaron and his sister Miriam to go with him.

In Exodus Chapter 15, you'll find two verses, 20 & 21 that tell the story of Miriam leading the newly freed people in a dance of victory after they escaped safely through the Red Sea. What an extraordinary person Miriam must have been. With enough self-confidence to break free of traditional expectations placed on her by others. Enough self-esteem to let Moses take the limelight, though she did the same work; and enough internal security to dance in front of thousands.

These are the traits of a strong, emotionally healthy person. They are qualities we all long for, but too often find missing in our lives. Robert Schuller, while I don't particularly like much of his theology, I believe rightly defines SELF-ESTEEM as, the human hunger for the dignity that God intended to be our emotional birthright as children created in God's own image.

Miriam claimed her birthright and broke free of the expectations others placed upon her. She danced her life to her own tune. Apparently, Miriam never married which was uncommon in her day and a source of shame. Unmarried women couldn't own property and had few ways to make a living other than begging or prostitution. Miriam never married, but the Bible says that she danced with all the women of Israel and it doesn't sound like she missed much.

It takes a great deal of internal security to live in a way that is different from society's expectations.

Have you ever wondered why you are so terrified of being embarrassed? Why does it matter so much what others think? Everyone struggles with this, but we, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people are consumed by that fear.

We seem afraid to risk new thoughts especially about God or our faith or the way we ought to live our lives. Our first response to someone who thinks or acts differently from us is to be critical. We seem personally threatened by those who don't conform to our expectations.

The tragedy, of course is that God has not called us to conformity, but to make our lives extraordinary. EXTRA ORDINARY—that is, beyond the ordinary. While others secretly tap their foot to the music, God calls us to dance unrestrained by inhibitions.

I am proud to say that there are many people in Lambda who have responded to God's call to seize the day and make their lives extraordinary. Many of us have similar faith backgrounds. We have escaped our fundamentalism or the rigid constraints and beliefs of our church background and are proud spiritual liberals today. We are living proof that people can change.

All of us are working very hard to free ourselves from fixed and limited notions about God. Today, we are all believers committed to the radical inclusion of all people in God's family. Of course, that has meant we had to bury our narrow-minded understanding of Jesus and God. Yet, we have kept our devotion alive and are passionately in love with the God of Jesus Christ.

Miriam's devotion and passion refused to be constrained by her inhibitions. Without fear of embarrassment, she dances with unbridled joy in front of thousands. Lots of us are too self-conscious and inhibited to let ourselves really go. We say that we are not good dancers or we are too shy, but not Miriam. She was free and used her freedom to worship God with her whole being.

Many of you were once in love with God, and you got badly hurt. God invites us to take a risk, to open our hearts once again. In order for us to experience ecstasy of freedom before God, we have to relax our barriers and inhibitions for just a moment. We have to let our spirits soar unchecked by worry of what someone else might think.

All our life should be a dance with God. We were created to enjoy God and be enjoyed by God. God already knows all about us, knows us better than we know ourselves, and has asked us for this dance. Through Christ, God is asking you for this dance. You see, God only cares about you, the real you. My prayer is that you'll hear God's invitation and reach out and take the lovingly offered hand of God and I hope you'll dance.

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IGLTA Celebrates 20 Years

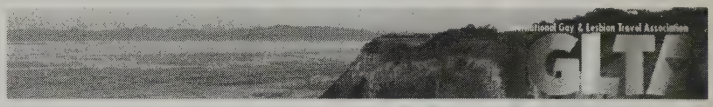
The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) are celebrating its 20th year of success in travel. Founded in 1983, the IGLTA has been bringing its Mission Statement of 'growing and enhancing its members gay and lesbian tourism business through education, promotion and networking' to all parts of the globe.

IGLTA President, Ron Cartieri, notes that 'the recent IGLTA Symposium in New York City was oversold and very successful. Furthermore, at the New York Symposium, IGLTA welcomed its first member from Beijing, Peoples Republic of China. With this and the opening of the IGLTA European office last year, the Association is very optimistic indeed about the future,' said Cartieri.

All agents and suppliers interested in learning about this market and in finding excellent opportunities to network with travel professionals locally and globally, are invited to contact the IGLTA headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA. The IGLTA is open to all travel and travel-related businesses; current membership includes both gay/lesbian and mainstream suppliers, major airlines, accommodations, car rental and many others.

The IGLTA attributes some of its recent success and growth to added membership benefits, including an on-line Travel Agent Forum, on-site Travel Agent Meetings conducted at Symposia and World Conventions; and a 'Virtual Trade Show Gallery' that gives added exposure to all Trade Show exhibitors, long after the Trade Show is over. 'The IGLTA is giving its members more and more opportunity to be a part of the direction of their Association as it fits their needs to grow and prosper,' said Cartieri.

Travel agents and suppliers interested in the opportunity to grow their travel business are invited to join IGLTA; membership is only $200 per year with a one-time registration fee of $100. To join on-line, visit the IGLTA website at www.iglta.org/join.cfm



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The Death Of AIDS Activism?

By Lou Chibbaro Jr.

Many of the country's national and local AIDS organizations, formed in the 1980s as outspoken critics of the government's handling of the AIDS epidemic, now receive millions of dollars in federal and state government funds.

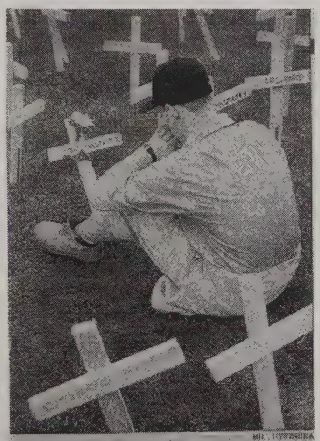
In what some view as an ironic turn of events, a growing number of AIDS activists are expressing concern that these once provocative advocacy groups have evolved into multi-million dollar bureaucracies that have become overly dependent on the government entities they are supposed to be monitoring and challenging. As a result, they say, public health officials face much less pressure on AIDS issues than in the first two decades of the epidemic.

"All of [these AIDS groups] are dependent on the federal government for money to some degree or another," said veteran gay journalist and commentator Doug Ireland, who has written about AIDS issues for the Village Voice and POZ magazine, among other publications, for nearly 20 years. "If you are dependent on the government, you can't be in a position to criticize it." Leaders of some of the nation's most prominent national and local AIDS groups — including D.C.'s Whitman Walker Clinic, New York City's Gay Men's Health Crisis, and the D.C.-based National Association of People With AIDS — dispute Ireland's assessment.

Terje Anderson, executive director of NAPWA, which received $1.1 million of its $2 million budget in 2002 from the federal government, said the federal funding is a product of years of successful advocacy work on behalf of the AIDS groups. He said the federal funding helps pay for programs that assist people with AIDS. "What the critics are asking is, 'Can we walk and chew gum at the same time?'" Anderson said. "I know how to run a service program, and I know how to run an advocacy operation."

Trend Began under Clinton

Although the Bush administration's decision to initiate financial audits for many AIDS groups receiving federal funds has had a "chilling effect" on these groups, critics say, the trend toward moving away from vocal public advocacy efforts began under the Clinton administration. It was during the Clinton years that federal funding for the AIDS groups rose dramatically, critics say, prompting the groups to be more cautious about "biting the hand that feeds them," even though Clinton was perceived to be friendly to the groups. "You can tell by the flow of press releases, " said a former staff member of AIDS Action, the Washington, D.C., based organization that bills itself as "the national voice on AIDS."



The epidemic marches on: *Memorial in Berlin*

Ernst Reuter Platz
Berlin
6 June 93

"What used to be a constant flow of press releases and public pronouncements by AIDS Action on breaking issues pertaining to AIDS — controversial issues—has turned into a tiny trickle," said the former staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "If you talk to members of Congress and their staffs, you'll see that they have written them off," the former staffer said, in referring to AIDS Action. Gay political groups, like the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, have since filled what some Capitol Hill staffers saw as a vacuum created by the less visible AIDS groups, the former staffer said.

Marsha Martin, AIDS Action's executive director, acknowledged that the group has suffered from a succession of executive directors that have come and gone over the past four years, and said the leadership changes have shaken the organization's stability. Now, Martin said, the group is completing a one-year "rebuilding" process, which began when she took over in February 2002.

Thacker silence Deafening

The most striking example of the AIDS groups' cautious approach, critics say, surfaced last month when the press reported that the White House was about to name Christian activist Jerry Thacker of Pennsylvania to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Thacker, who runs a Christian AIDS ministry, referred to AIDS on the ministry's Web site as the "gay plague" and called homosexuality a "deathstyle." Disclosure of these views by the press prompted the White House to pressure Thacker to withdraw his nomination to the panel, according to Bush administration sources.

Martin said AIDS Action did issue a press release expressing concern over the Thacker nomination. The Blade did not receive the release and, as of this week, the release had not been posted on AIDS Action's Web site. Some activists say the changes at AIDS Action over the past several years has raised strong doubts about the direction in which local and national AIDS groups appear to be heading.

Critics say the arrangement between AIDS Action and the city-based groups appeared to work well during the 1980s and early 1990s, drawing widespread support from gay rights and AIDS activists. Friction began to surface over AIDS Action's mission and goals in the middle 1990s, activists say.

The groups in the larger cities wanted AIDS Action to focus most of its attention on securing funding for its member groups under the Ryan White CARE Act, a landmark bill passed by Congress to provide emergency assistance to cities and states hit hardest by the AIDS epidemic. Although virtually all AIDS activists support the Ryan White program, some began to express concern that Ryan White funds were competing with funds for HIV prevention programs.

Ryan White Factions

At that time, Daniel Zingale became AIDS Action's executive director after having served as political director at the Human Rights

Continued on Page 41

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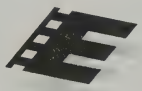

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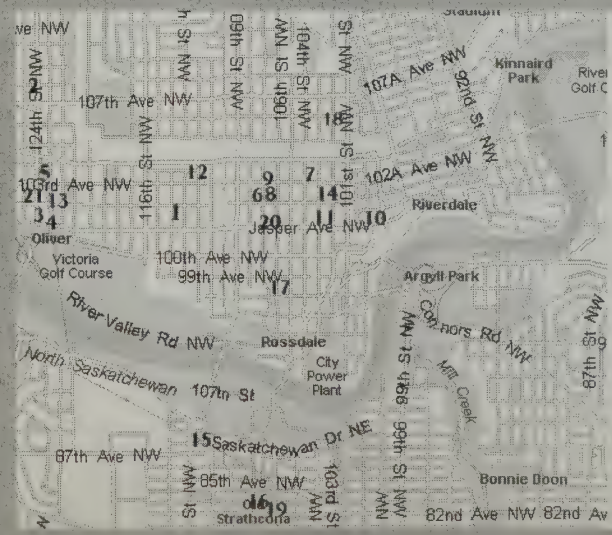

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The Death Of AIDS Activism?

(Continued from Page 37)

Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group. Sources familiar with AIDS Action say Zingale has been credited with greatly expanding AIDS Action's profile and political influence in Washington by taking on a variety of issues, not just the Ryan White program.

In building a visible press operation, which some viewed as a "press release mill," Zingale positioned AIDS Action as one of the lead sources of input on AIDS by Democratic and moderate Republican members of Congress. "He was constantly fighting off leaders of the member groups, who wanted him to devote all his attention to Ryan White," said the former AIDS Action staffer.

"I was warned by veterans in the AIDS movement, including members of my board" to be cautious on the Africa-AIDS drug issue. At the time of his departure from AIDS Action, all drug company contributions had stopped, although federal money had increased. Under his tenure, AIDS Action took out a full-page ad in USA Today criticizing the Clinton administration for its "failure" to address youths at risk for HIV, including gay youth. "I don't think you ever have to sacrifice your principles to maintain your financial solvency," he said. "If an AIDS advocacy group like AIDS Action survived without drug company

But critics like Ireland and D.C.'s Wayne Turner, organizer of the AIDS protest group Act Up/D.C., say few if any of the current leaders of national and local AIDS groups appear to share Zingale's views.

Turner has said he and other AIDS activists have long complained that AIDS organizations operating in the nation's large cities have become bloated bureaucracies that pay "unconscionable" salaries to their executive directors and high-level managers. Turner said he welcomed efforts by Republican members of Congress and the Bush administration to push for audits of the organizations' finances and their record of carrying out government funded programs.

Officials with the AIDS groups say the increased federal funds flowing into their coffers are being used to assist people with AIDS in a number of areas, including medical services, emergency shelter and housing, case management, dental services, mental health counseling, and legal services, among other things. Most of the federal funding for these services comes from the Ryan White CARE Act, which Congress passed more than 10 years ago to assist cities and states struggling to help people with AIDS who don't have health insurance.

AIDS Action, which serves as the Washington representative and "national advocate" for these groups, itself received $190,000 in federal funds in 2002 to supplement its $1.9 million budget.

He notes that Whitman-Walker continues to lobby Congress and speak out forcefully for controversial needle exchange programs aimed at curtailing the spread of AIDS among drug abusers. Baker characterized as unfair some of the criticism that AIDS groups aren't being as outspoken on public policy issues as they have in the past. A number of the national groups have developed better relationships with government agencies, he said, enabling them to call government officials directly.

Baker and AIDS Action's Marsha Martin said the fact that government officials are willing to sit down and listen to the concerns of many of the AIDS groups should be viewed as a positive development that, at least in some cases, makes a confrontation unnecessary. "I feel very confident that we have not in any way curtailed our messages," he said. "Our federal funds in no way affect our positions in lobbying the government."

Lou Chibbaro Jr. can be reached at lchibbaro@washblade.com.

There Goes the Neighbourhood

By Morgan D. Smith

Once, and not so very long ago, what we are was punishable under specific acts of law. Because of society's mores, most people of our ilk would lead sedate, and often lonely lives.

In the early '50s, western society at least started talking more openly about us. Kinsey completed a report, which claimed we comprised an astounding ten percent of the population. This, however, developed more of a concern for the mainstream society and less of a consolation for us. Instead of enlightening the population, the statistic frightened it. Steadfast beliefs maintained that we were a threat to decency as opposed to an acceptable component of the social structure.

The '60s offered a somewhat better climate for social change. Brave men and women risked their livelihoods and sometimes their lives to say to the mainstream "we exist, and we will no longer bear the weight of oppression!" Still, being openly gay could be considerably perilous.

Stonewall erupted in New York in June of 1969 and in the City of Edmonton, one gay man said to a small group of friends, "this city needs a gay club." In 1969, I was seven years old and whether Edmonton had a gay club or not was of no concern to me.

By the end of that year, this smal group had formed a society (the first registeredgay society on the North American Continent), had chosen a location, and opened their doors to those who would dare enter through them. This, however, did not last. The owner of the building they had leased discovered that he was 'contributing to the decay of decency', and decided to lock the people out. The small group took the owner to court, recovered the money they had put into the endeavor and proceeded to find another location. An alternative site was found, and where the Boots & Saddle is now located was where Club '70 became a reality.

Between early 1970 and late 1977 the club was a gathering place for gay men and women to meet and socialize. "Up to 250 people on a good night" my roommate tells me, and he was there. As word got around, more and more people ventured "out", and for many, life became less obscure. In 1977, I was fifteen and by that time I knew that I was very different from most of my male friends. I had also convinced myself that I was the only person who felt this way and what I was had to be a terrible secret. If anyone should ever find out...

By the end of '77, Club '70 changed hands and for a short time was known as the Cha Cha Palace. At that time, the 106 Street Social Club Society was formed and in

October of 1979 it became what we know it as today - The Boots & Saddle.

I returned to Edmonton in May of '84. I was twenty-two, and I still possessed that brand of fear that many of us have known. The closet I was in was very deep and I was standing in its darkest corner. But the reasons I chose to come back to this city were: first, I would be anonymous, and second, very deep down inside me I knew that I had to talk honestly with someone who was like me. Within my first month back, I realized that gay people actually had substantial contact with other gay people. They did not just arrange clandestine sexual trysts and then never see one another again. They told each other their real names, and developed honest friendships. They shared life experiences and when called for, they either laughed or cried on each other's shoulders. The venue where I discovered this freedom was "The Boots".

I am thirty-three now; I am less self absorbed and more cognizant of my community and its history. I am better able to appreciate the efforts of those who came before me. You see, my partner and I still frequent Boots regularly. Often, I see young men walk through the doors. They are usually wide-eyed, nervous and seem to be searching for something. I know that something is the safety and self-acceptance that comes with knowing that they are not alone. When I see these young men, I think of how fortunate I was to have found that sense of acceptance.

Prickle Yourself

By Michael Kurylo

Summer is almost over and it's time to get back into the swing of things. I have spent quite a bit of time with a few people over the past few month, mainly Tattooing and Piercing. I thought I would give you readers something to think about in the following common questions below. It seems that piercings have become more of a fashion statement then what they were originally done for, the effects are the same and the people who are pierced are more aware of that metal ring they have on parts of their body. I know... I have multiple piercings myself, both nipples with 10 gauge rings, a Frenum with 10 gauge barbell, and a Prince Albert which is also 10 gauge. As you will read further on you will start to understand why people get pierced, and how it can change your body awareness.

For those who are interested in Tatoos and Piercings I will be conducting a Workshop with Excalibur Tattoos around the end of September or early October there will be posters out sometime in the next week or so.

For more information on the workshop or anything else you might want to find out.

For those that are on Bulletin Board Systems you can reach me through the echo called Darkside of the Moon on the Beast BBS or any other system that carries that echo. This echo is open to all genders and orientations as well it covers ALL aspects of the alternative lifestyle.
Now on to the rest of the story.

What is body piercing? What is "C&B" play, or "genitorture"?

Piercings aren't just done to ears. People have their nipples, navels, eyebrows, clitoris hoods, penises, labia, and other body parts pierced, and bits of metal permanently in the piercings.
These are the bare facts, but this practice, it turns out, has a lot to do with SM. Getting a piercing, first of all, is an incredibly intense rush, on a purely physical level. It's a very powerful thing to willingly have someone push a sharp piece of metal through your body. It can be a level of sensation beyond any you've experienced in your life.

Once you have the piercing, it can completely change the way that part of the body feels to you. One friend of mine said that his nipple piercings turned his nipples from little places that felt OK to full-fledged erotic zones connected right to his cock. He calls his nipple piercings the best thing he's ever done for his body and his sex life, and he seems damn sincere! The same goes for all the piercings in the genital area; they can really make sex more fun! There is some medical evidence that nerves around the pierced location become much more sensitive, so this isn't mere folklore.

Some people get into play piercings, which are done temporarily with very thin needles, which are removed

Continued on Next Page

at the end of the scene. This is basically another kind of sensory trip, which some find very enjoyable. The needles don't _hurt_, exactly, but you certainly do know they're in there, and they sure do get those endorphins pumping! You don't want to try doing permanent piercings unless you've been personally trained by a professional; there is a lot of knowledge involved, and you definitely don't want to get stuck with a bad piercing. Play piercings are less hardcore, but you still want to make sure you know sterile technique (remember safe sex!).

FOR WOMEN:

Does nipple piercing cause problems with nursing? Sometimes yes, sometimes no; there are stories both ways. There are many milk ducts in an average nipple, so the chances are good that nursing can still happen, but nothing is certain.

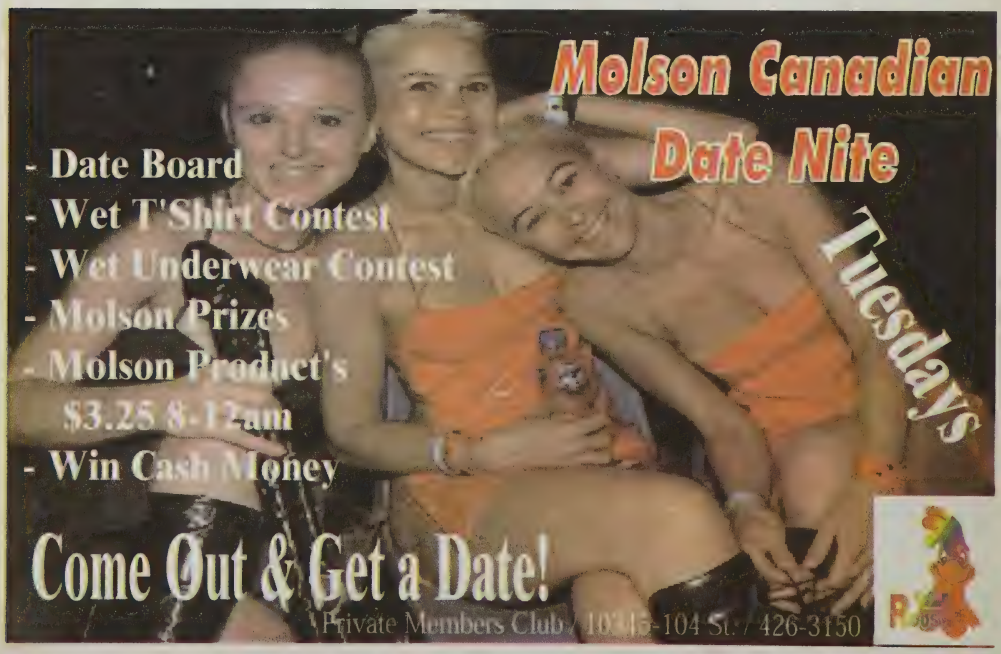
What is "C&B"?

"C&B play" stands for cock & ball play. "Genitorture" stands for "genital torture". This is a subject that makes some men clutch their nuts and run in fear, and makes other men instantly erect and greedy for more. The male genitals are at once the most vulnerable and most sensitive part of the male body, so of course many tops enjoy playing with them.

Cockrings are rings that go around your cock, typically around the base of it, behind the balls. The penis becomes erect when the blood vessels at its base constrict (because of arousal), trapping blood in the cock and causing it to swell. Cock rings have a similar effect, prolonging erection in most men that use them. (They also constrict the urethra, which will make any orgasm more intense, or even cause ejaculate to back up into the bladder. This is not dangerous unless done repeatedly. Experiment to find out how much tightness is too much.)

Most are made of leather, with adjustable snaps, so you can tighten or loosen them to fit (as well as remove them easily). Some are made of rubber. Some are even made of metal, but metal ones can be hazardous; if you put a too-small one on your non-erect cock, your cock may become so erect that you can no longer remove it—and if it is too tight, it will prevent your cock from softening. This may involve a trip to the emergency room and the use of bolt cutters. No joke. Some cock rings have multiple rings, for behind the balls, around the balls themselves, and around the base of the shaft. Some people like using _lots_ of cock rings, to stretch the balls out away from the body.

Safety tips: The broadest guideline is to go slowly until you know how much you can take. If the pain from a particular activity starts to spread into other areas of the body, or if the pain lasts for a long time after the stimulation ends, you have probably gone beyond your limits. You won't reach this point generally if you take your time. As with any SM practice, if you find yourself in pain later, or if you notice any abnormalities in your cock or balls when flaccid or erect, see a doctor. Of course, avoid any practice that seriously wrenches or twists the genitals; there are many ligaments and blood vessels in there, damage to which may make it hard for you to get hard. But the cock and balls can handle light whipping or slapping, provided it is done with care.



Of course, cock and ball bondage can be done with leather strips, ribbons, velvet cords, etc. Be as ornamental as you please; tying up an erect cock can create a luscious work of art, and teasing it can be even more artistic. Don't expect C&B bondage to keep a cock hard indefinitely; cocks will usually get soft if not stimulated, and bondage which_will_keep it hard may be dangerously tight. In any event, be sure you can remove your bondage quickly, as always.

FOR WOMEN:
A great deal can also be done with female genitalia. Some women love having clothespins on their pussy lips; some love light whipping on their outer labia, or even their clitoris. Sometimes body piercings can be used for bondage; labia piercings can hold a pussy open very delightfully, or clit hood piercings can be tied up out of the way with thread, leaving the clit naked and exposed. Some women like soft fur on their pussy; others like to be alternately soothed and tormented until they can stand no more.

Again, go slowly. Do NOT blow into the vagina, whatever else you do. Don't leave clamps on very long until you know how much your partner enjoys (and how it will feel to her the next day when the scene is over). Too much of one kind of sensation can become irritating quickly; change the stimulation, keep your bottom aroused and surprised. There are all_sorts_of things that can be used on female genitals; "bamboo skewers, candles, cheese graters, clips, fly swatter, ice cubes, knives, latex squares, leather thongs, massage bongers, rabbit fur, ropes, scalp scrubber, silk, spoons, towels, weights, and whips" as items that can be useful in giving your bottom's genitals a ride they won't forget. (And no, you don't do this until you cause real damage, any more than you do with male genitals. Don't be scraping, scabbing, or scarring—these are the most sensitive parts of the body you're playing with!)

Communication is paramount in female genital play; women's pussies vary as much as any other part of womens bodies (or more), and responses will vary equally dramatically. In general, the same sort of rhythm discussed in the whipping section is useful in pussy play,
though if anything the top needs to go even more slowly, as the sensations will be more intense and focused than in almost any other kind of sensation scene.

One final tidbit: apparently, for many women, a common pre-orgasmic response is for the clit to retreat into its hood. If you are giving your partner some very delicious sensation (possibly combined with some just-right pain) and her clit disappears, DON'T STOP! (Unless you _want_ to avoid her orgasm... don't push this too far, unless your bottom's feet are tied down—she may kick.) And know your limits; if your bottom really wants an orgasm to end the scene, giving her one may make her EXTREMELY grateful to you, and waiting_too_long may burn you both out. This is good stuff to negotiate about beforehand in any scene—how would you like the scene to end? Breaking such an agreement will engender mistrust, but honesty, as always, will help everyone get what they want.

I hope you have had some nice reading and that I have been able to give you a bit more information on these two common questions. Until the next time.
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romance

Box 22125: I'm a caring, professional, passionate and compassionate guy. I like to laugh, love and learn new things. I lead a full, creative life and try and keep a balance with my career and relaxation such as music, theatre, skiing and projects at my lake cottage. I've been a single father for the past seven years and I'm looking for another important relationship in my life. I'm tall, 6', 145lb, fit and attractive. I prefer being a bottom but I'm versatile, passionate and adventurous. I'm looking for someone between 35-50 who finds these qualities would fit their lifestyle and personality.

Box 31047: I'm just getting on this system here lookin' to meet somebody for something longterm and discreet. I am attached and not looking to get out of it. I'm lookin' to meet somebody that I can spend some quality time with, to get to know. I'm pretty down-to-earth and quite honest, so if you're firm, young, smooth, slim, definitely get back to me.

Box 31089: 42 year old here. 150lb, 5'11", slim, quite toned. Looking for somebody that likes to have fun, a social drinker and smoker, takes life pretty casually, around 25-35. You must be slim and attractive, kind of more a tradesman kind of farmboy guy.

Box 31123: I think it is high time for a longterm relationship, for me. I am good-looking, active. I am sincere and have a great and sometimes bizarre, sense of humour. I would like to meet a guy 35-45, who must be intellectually stimulating, have a good sense of humour and most importantly, be honest and sincere. I keep active, I don't work out everyday. I am not looking for someone with a perfect body, just an average guy.

bears & big men

Box 31045: I'm in my mid-40s, hot and heavy, 190lb white, looking for a good time. Like somebody big and heavy and strong on top of me, I like to bottom, suck nipples too.

friendship & hanging out

Box 31309: Dark hair and eyes, fairly handsome, 5'8", 31, seek men 26-38. I am straightforward, straight-acting, professionally employed and not into head games. I am looking for decent guys to become friends with and see where the road leads us! Interests of mine include camping, hiking, running, traveling, sitting back on cold nights and watching a good movie, enjoy hanging out with my friends and family.

Box 31336: This is a gay white male in Fort McMurray. Good morning, afternoon and evening – however you are lookin' at your day! Lookin' up to hook up with some friends and, maybe, who knows? We can see how it goes. Are you in town and as bored as I am?

Box 31721: This is Kevin. Anyone work out? I need a workout partner. I am 29, 5'8", 235lb, brown hair and eyes. I have a little bit of weight to lose, a little bit overweight. This is why I am looking for a workout partner. I am mostly looking for friends to hang out with, do the bike and the treadmill and the "Step-stepercizer". Eventually, we will get into the free weights. I have a rotating shift at work and that puts me at all different hours but I am willing to work out a specific time that we can have it.

one night stands

Box 21326: I'm a tall guy with a slender build, 29" waist, flat stomach, tight smooth ass, hot talented mouth, 7" cut cock. I'm generally a bottom looking for a top that might be looking for a relationship or ongoing encounters. Who's out there?

Box 22876: I'm a bisexual guy coming into the Edmonton area tomorrow, going to be in town till Friday morning. Looking for another in-shape, masculine guy who wants to get together and have some safe clean fun. I'm 28, 6', 195lb, nice little body, nice thick shaved 7" cut dick.

Box 31040: Married guy on the line here. 5'10", 185lb, short brown hair, blue-green eyes. Just lookin' to have a little fun and see what's out there.

Box 31067: I'm a bottom looking for a top can travel, very clean, discreet, straight looking and acting, good-looking. Short black hair, 170lb, very slim, nice bubble butt, 7" cut cock, fairly fit. I like to suck cock and I want to be fucked in the ass. I'm serious if you are.

Box 31078: 33 year old bi guy, 6', 195lb, 7" cut, dark blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking to get together with another guy for a regular fuckbuddy. Love to suck, jack, fondle, roll around, totally versatile, sometimes like to top or bottom.

Box 31132: I'm 6', 190lb, looking to hook up with a hot young guy who wants to have a hot time. Who is out there?

Box 31164: I am clean, discreet, mid-40s, bi. I am very straight looking and acting, in the closet. Looking for a guy who is attached or single. I am very discreet, would like to get together on a regular basis. Looking for a well-endowed who is straight-looking and acting like I am. Would like someone to be a top for me. I love sucking cock and getting fucked. Just looking for a good time. Anyone interested?

Box 31166: I am a young guy who is looking to get together right away. I am open-minded. Why don't we chat?

Box 31300: I'm 39, 185lb, 5'11", fit and muscular, incredibly horny. Well-hung, love sucking, like hairy, muscular guys. Anyone who has an ass that they like to have it worked over?

Box 31314: I'm 6', 170lb, short hair, blond, blue eyes, clean-shaven. I've got a hairy chest, well-endowed, 8-1/2" thick and uncut. Like oral and body contact, also a top.

Box 32603: Very attractive, looking for a well-hung top or tops, that want to be serviced. I am into oral, giving and receiving body contact and I've got a real nice, tight butt that just loves to receive!

group scenes & public sex

Box 31016: Young 18 year old guy here, 6', brown hair, blonde highlights, blue eyes, 175lb. Looking for other young hot guys out there who want to hook up.

Box 31025: I'm 37, blue eyes, shoulder-long hair, 180lb, nice big cock. I like to suck, fuck, eat ass, have my ass eaten, be fucked hard, just have lots of fun, blow lots of load, spend lots of time together, necking, passionate, get in the shower, just fuck hard. I'm looking for a well-endowed guy, maybe two guys. I can travel or you can come to my house.

submissive bottoms

Box 31065: 24 year old bisexual, promiscuous, kinky, dirty bottom boy, like to play dirty, anything goes. I'm looking for a group of top guys to come over and gangbang me, love to suck cock, ass play, rim, get fucked, really love cum in my mouth. I want a group of older tops to gangbang me, maybe it'd be okay you could videotape me.

total tops

Box 31137: I am 39, 5'9", 160lb, cute, 6" cut and bottom. Looking for some hot action. I'm in Fort McMurray but willing to travel to Edmonton.

Box 31419: Anyone out there who is too hot and horny? Hot and horny guy, 5'8", blond and blue eyes, moustache, toned and tanned. Tight, muscular legs, 33" waist, 170lb. Very well-endowed, clean, discreet, professional. Looking for another guy 18-35.

first-timers & bi guys

Box 31140: I am bi, 5'7", 175lb, brown hair and blue eyes. Looking for the same. Crossdressers are preferred.

Box 31277: I am 28, 5'10", average build, tanned and attractive, brown hair, blue eyes, attached, so discretion is a big thing. I am not into the huggy/kissy sort of thing, don't enjoy body-to-body contact. I do really enjoy receiving and giving anal – receiving more than giving and also oral. I am looking to meet someone, any age, who is in decent shape that can travel or entertain. Looking for a possibly ongoing relationship.

Box 31293: This middle-aged, 55 year old male, 5'10", 220lb, husky and hairy body, married and bi is a little experienced, I have done "it" and I know what I like. Looking for another male who I can give pleasure to. I enjoy giving pleasure to men and doing things to men that their wives or girlfriends don't really do. I can travel to Red Deer on a regular basis, Edmonton, too. Discretion and safe sex are a must.

Box 31830: I'm 23, looking to try it with a guy for the first time. This will be a first-time experience. I am looking to try anal and try possibly being a bottom. I haven't tried it, but I do have a vibrator and I really enjoy that. So I assume that I would enjoy being a bottom. I am looking for someone 20 or younger, or 50 and older. Looking for someone who can entertain. I come into Edmonton once, twice a week, if that. Looking for someone who can help me out. I have blond hair, blue eyes, clean, safe and discreet, good-looking. Looking for the same. Hope to hear from ya!

Box 32226: This bi male is 6' and almost hairless. A bottom. I am submissive. I love to satisfy and please who I am with. I love to do oral. Don't mind body contact once in a while. Very open-minded. I will try different things.

leather & SM

Box 31030: Very submissive bottom from west Edmonton, 195lb, brown hair and eyes, fairly new at this game. I'm looking for a very dominant top with some toys to use me as they see fit. If there is more than one, that might be okay too, with the right circumstances. Thanks.

Box 31347: Looking for anyone out there who wants to get together. I am 6'3", 37, with a huskier, bigger build. A large frame guy. Looking to just service a master and see how that goes.

fetishes, kink & raunch

Box 31135: I am basically an adult baby. A diaper boy! I am just looking for a daddy who can diaper me. Who would baby me? Do you like what you are hearing? Get back to me!

Box 31686: I am a bi-curious, white male in my 30s. I am very clean and open-minded. Love watching BD and SM tapes. Don't anyone have those kind of tapes? They're hard to find! Also, do you have any party favours, like poppers? Those things keep a guy in the mood. I would like to try some. If I am bi-curious, then I am also very open-minded.

shemales & crossdressers

Box 31050: I'm Samantha, an extremely hot and very horny transsexual. I'm 6', long blonde hair, big hazel eyes, full lips, nice smile, great body, super-long legs. I'm toned and tanned. I'm a 32B for my tits, 28", 32" hips. Very sexy, conservative and hoping to meet and greet new people out there who would like to meet a new friend and possibly more so get back to me.

Box 31281: This is Cassandra, a hot crossdresser. I enjoy short skirts, tall boots, leather and latex. Looking for a hot man or men to go dancing with me or to entertain me.

Box 31331: This is a straight guy. I am kinda curious, curious to see what this is all about! Anyone out there wants to show me? This sure is your chance!

Box 31564: I would enjoy meeting a man who is – oh! – probably 40+, who is looking for a "bedroom she-male." I am middle-aged and privately, discreetly, behind closed doors, enjoy wearing seductive lingerie. I am affectionate and enjoy touching, kissing, body contact, roleplaying. You should like that, too. You should be a top and looking for a relationship based on sex, fun and friendship. Please be assured that I am clean, honest and discreet. You should be too, I guess. I can entertain most days, evenings and some weekends. I prefer to entertain but can also travel. I am easy to look at and fun to be with! Hey, call today!

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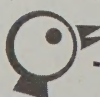

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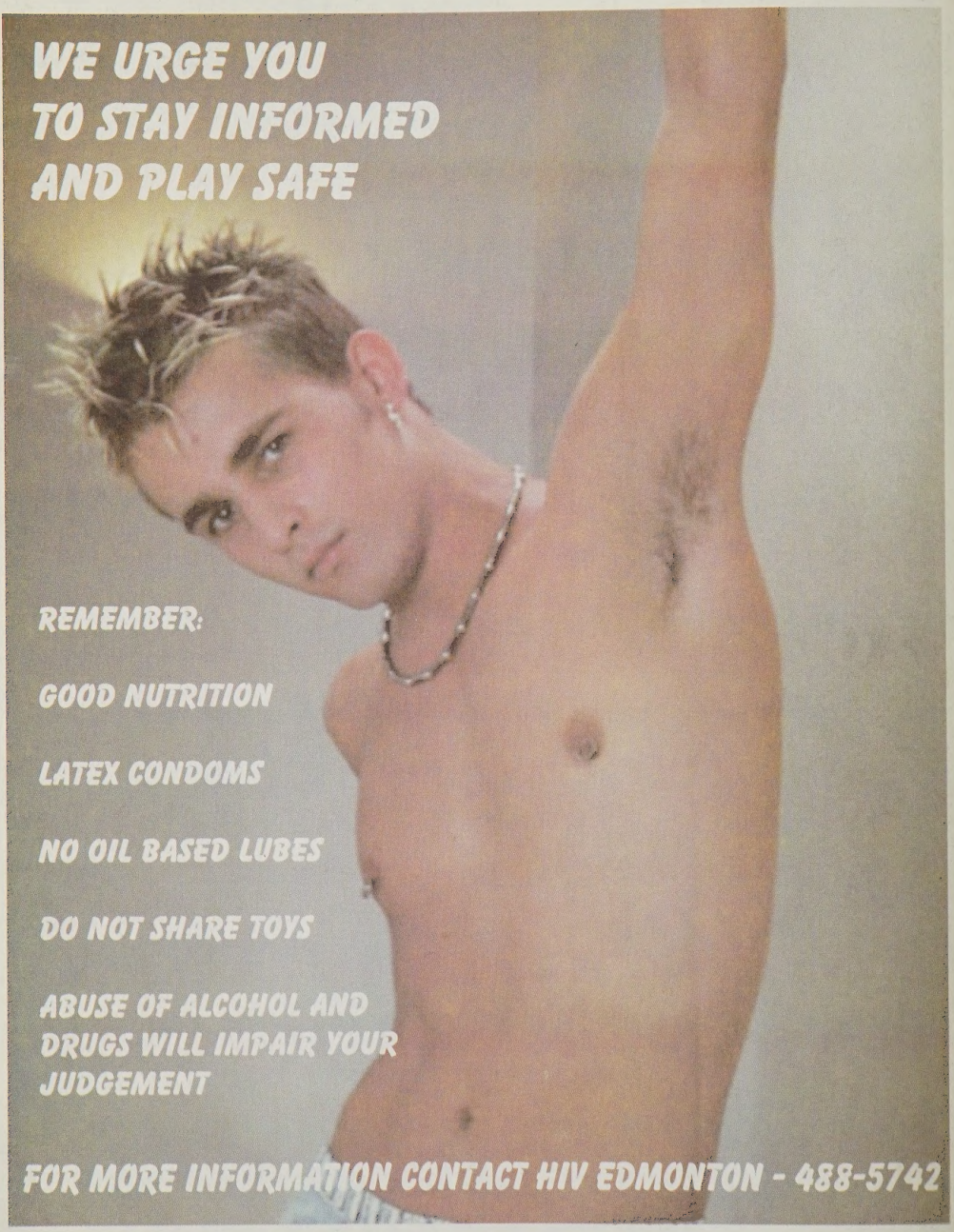
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